EVENING KC

遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDOU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

6

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遠藤浩輝

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Entertainment is something that aims to make people forget about their troubles for a while so they can try and do their best again tomorrow, or from an old economic standpoint, it was a way to "rejuvenate the workforce." Alas, entertainment is going to be much harder from here on. The troubles people now have to forget include a nuclear disaster, and the work they have to continue tomorrow is the reconstruction.

In other words, creators of fiction now have to ask themselves, "Can I create something that can trump a natural disaster?" Anyway, I'm not sure the afterword in a volume of manga is the appropriate place for this kind of thought, but in the month since the earthquake in eastern Japan, the death toll has exceeded 10,000 and the nuclear situation is looking worse and worse. I don't know how this will read years from now, or what the situation in Japan will be then, but in the end, we can only do what we can according to our places in society.

I'm not saying we have to be serious all the time. But we can't make the disaster disappear, so we just have to find enjoyment in life with the thought of it always in the backs of our minds. For who knows how many years, we'll be wondering if we're safe from radiation while we wake up, eat breakfast, go to work or school, watch comedy DVDs, have sex, and barter for toilet paper.

For a manga artist, this is the time when our skills will be tested. Even if we're just drawing panty shots, our panty shots must now be able to hold their own against tsunamis and nuclear disasters. I'm totally serious.

Hiroki Endo in Tokyo, 4/15/2011

cover design
Tadashi HISAMOCHI + Saiko TSUCHINASHI (hive&co.,ltd.)

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遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDOU
6
ALL ROUNDER MEGURU
オールラウンダー廻
Translation by
MEGCHAN
Lettering by
NOMAD SOUL

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 6

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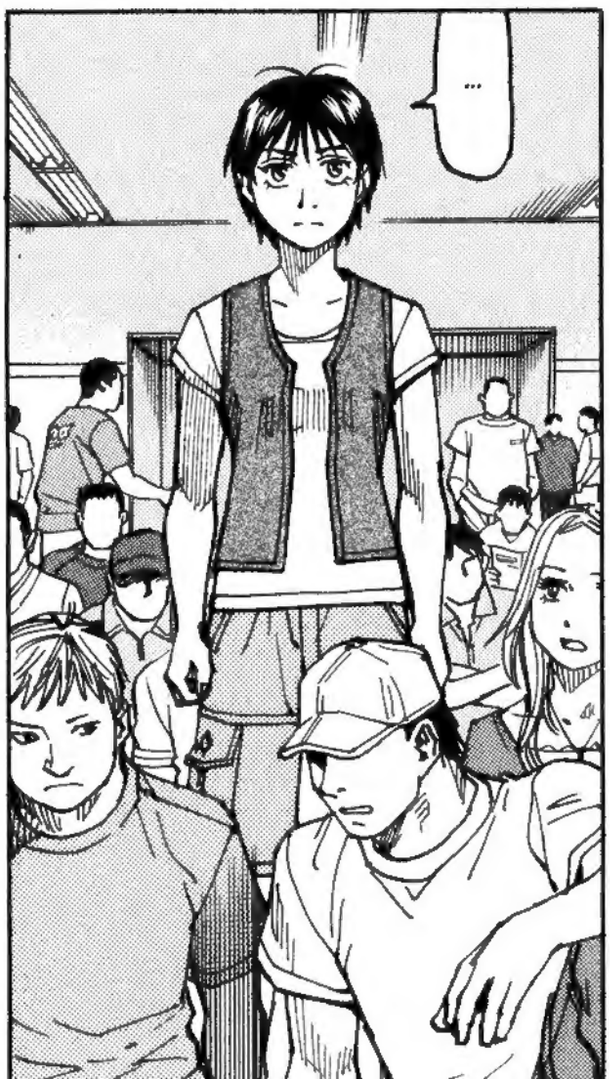
Chapter 48 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 1)

カーン
カーン
Match over!

IS HE GONNA WIN EVERY MATCH WITH A HEAD KICK?
CLATTER
DID THAT REALLY JUST HAPPEN ...?
CLATTER
HOLY CRAP!
SHOOTO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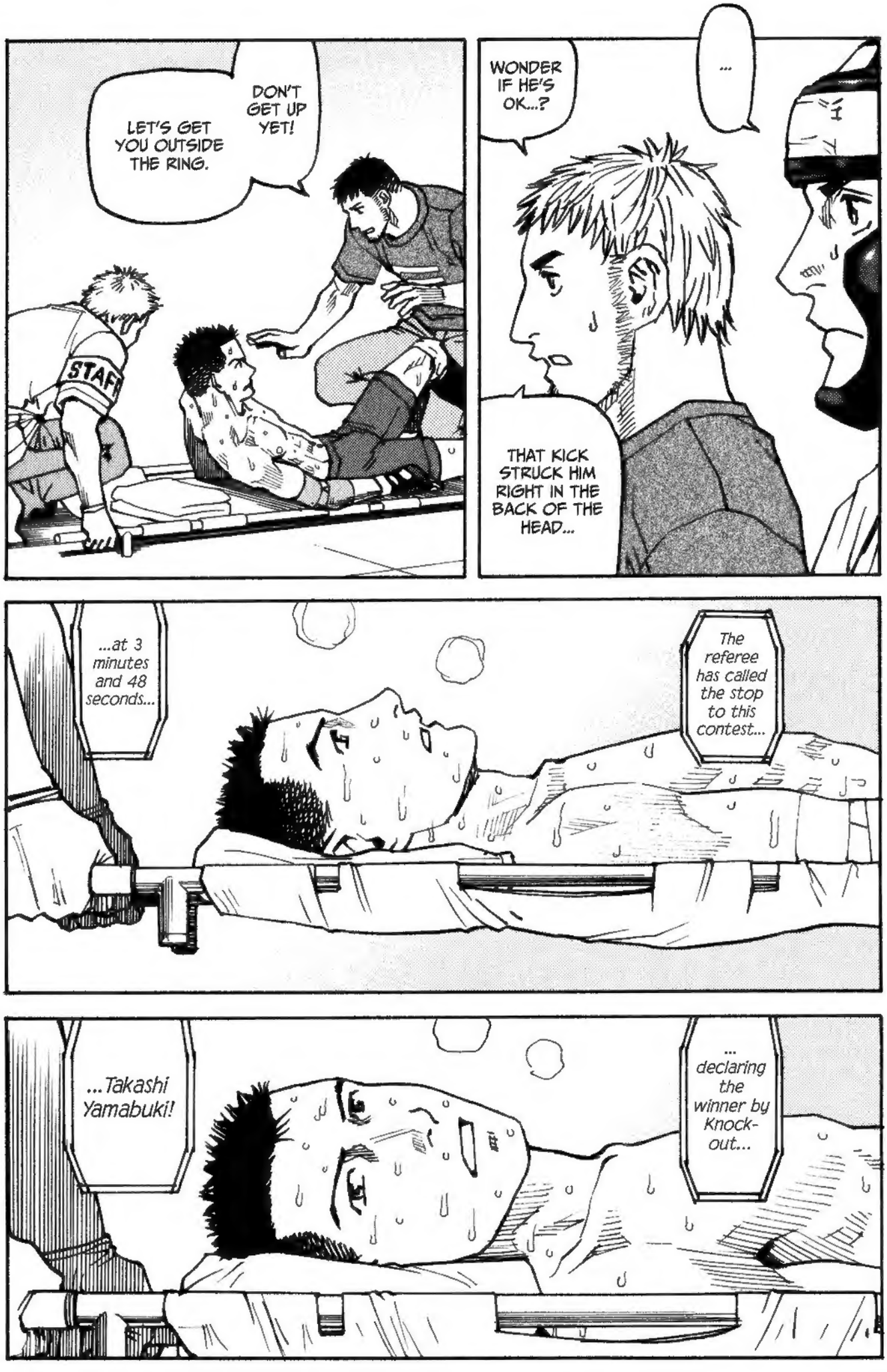
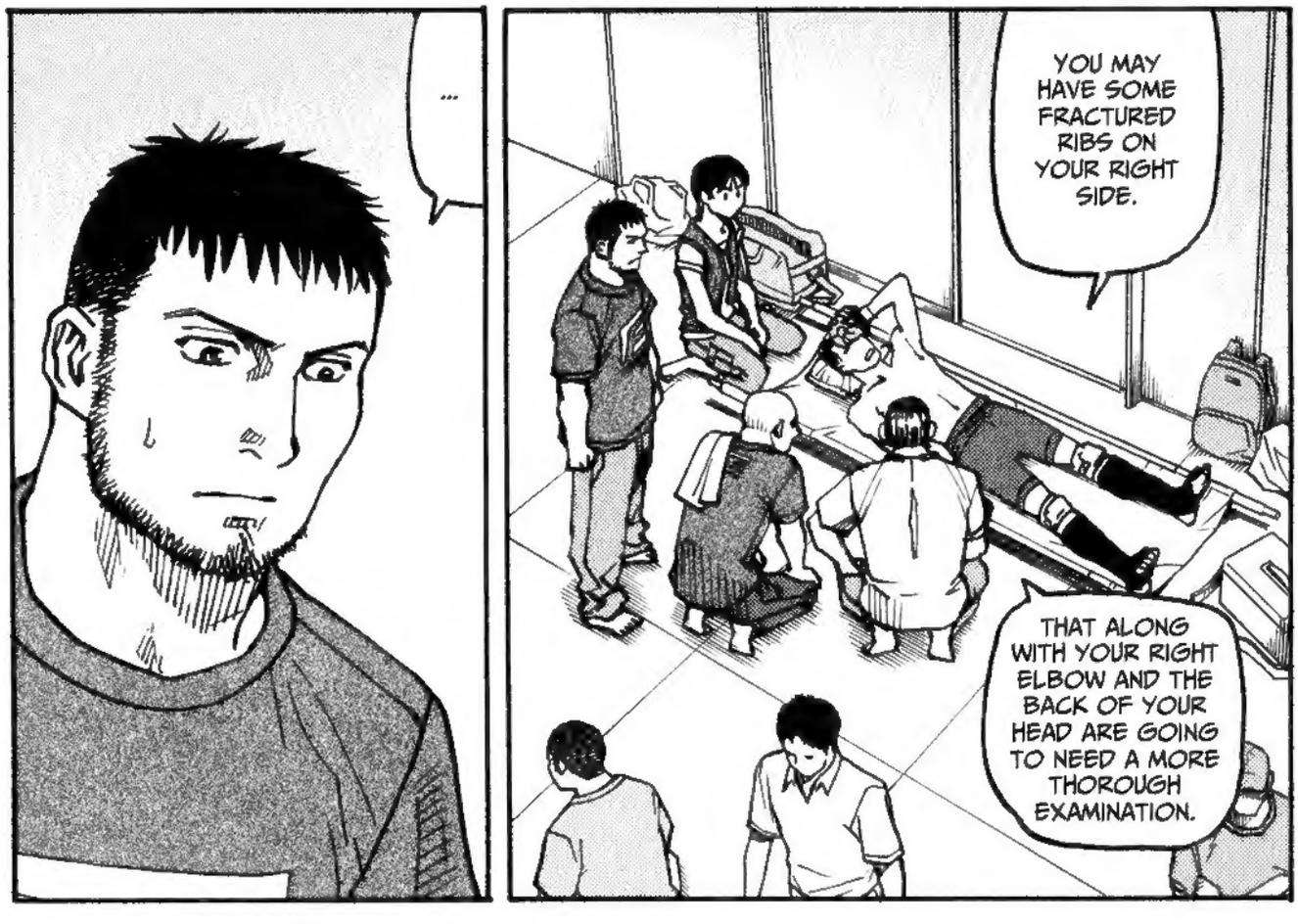
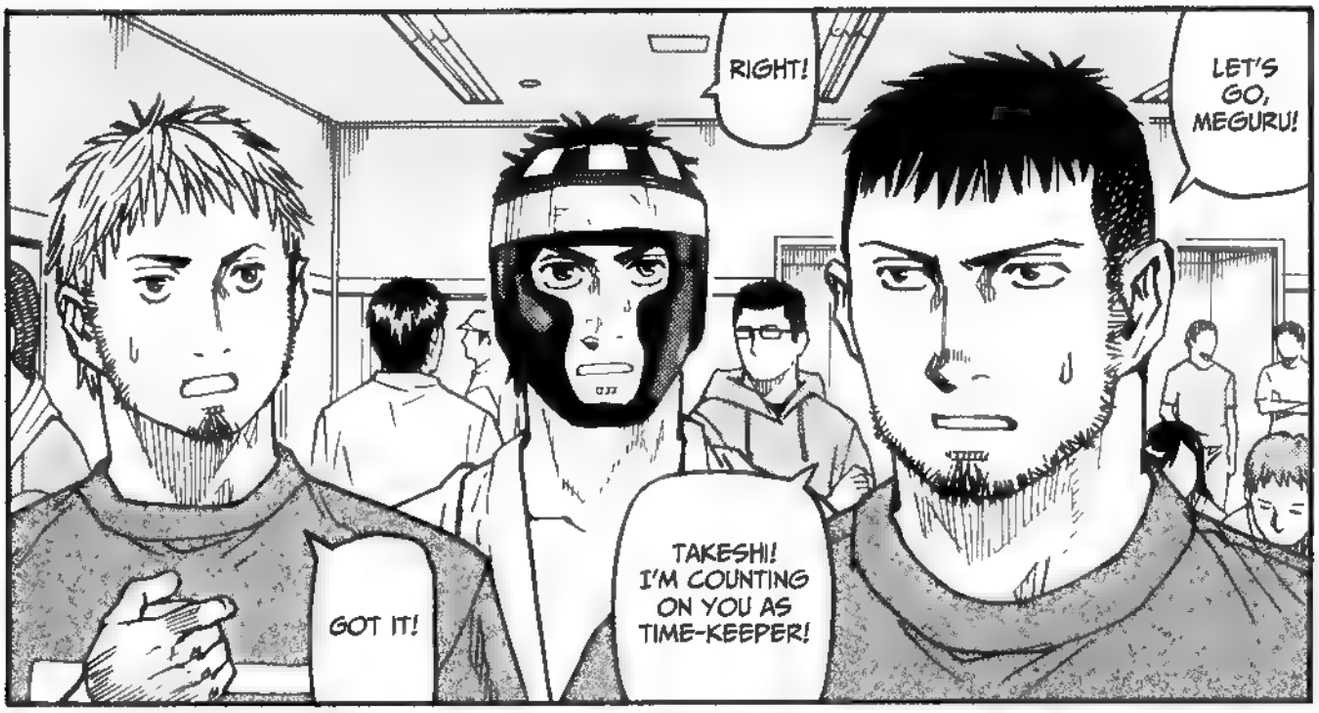
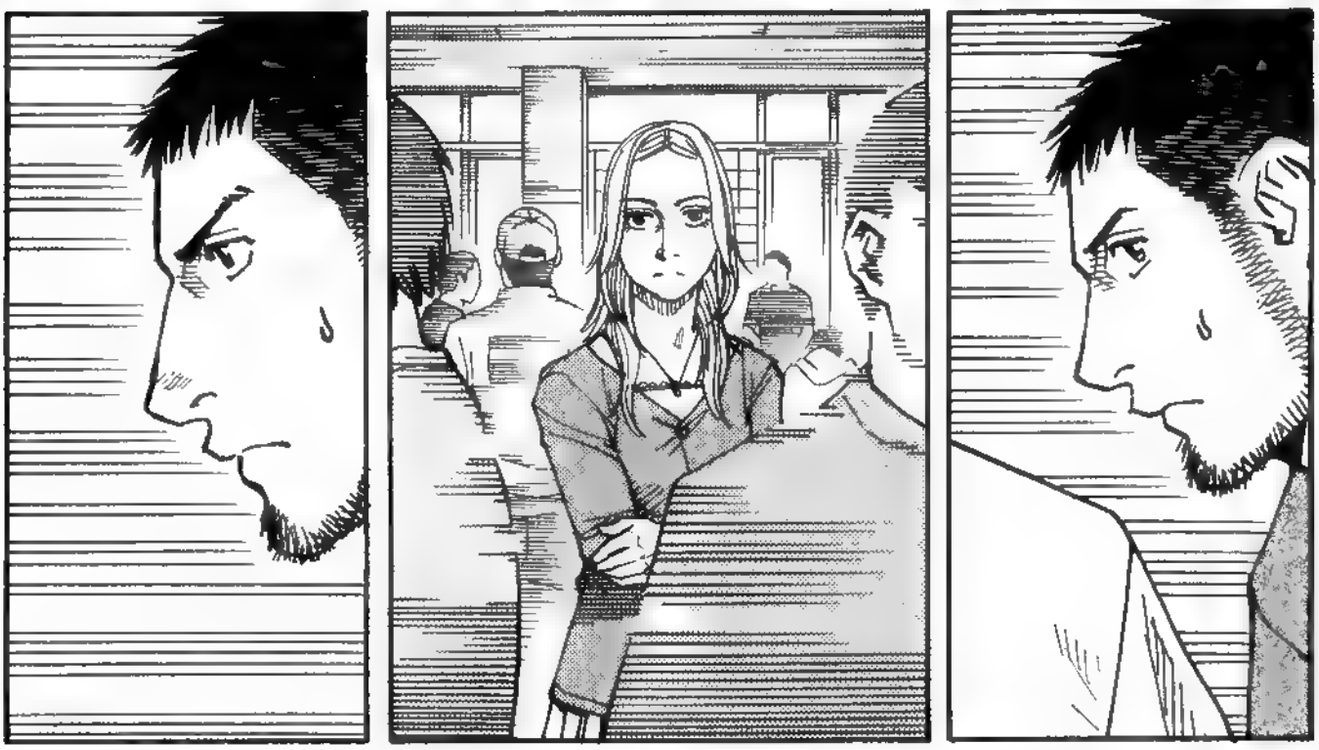

DON'T GET UP YET!
LET'S GET YOU OUTSIDE THE RING.
STAFF
...
WONDER IF HE'S OK...?
THAT KICK STRUCK HIM RIGHT IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD...
...at 3 minutes and 48 seconds...
The referee has called the stop to this contest...
...Takashi Yamabuki!
... declaring the winner by Knock-out...

...


...
YOU MAY HAVE SOME FRACTURED RIBS ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE.
THAT ALONG WITH YOUR RIGHT ELBOW AND THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD ARE GOING TO NEED A MORE THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

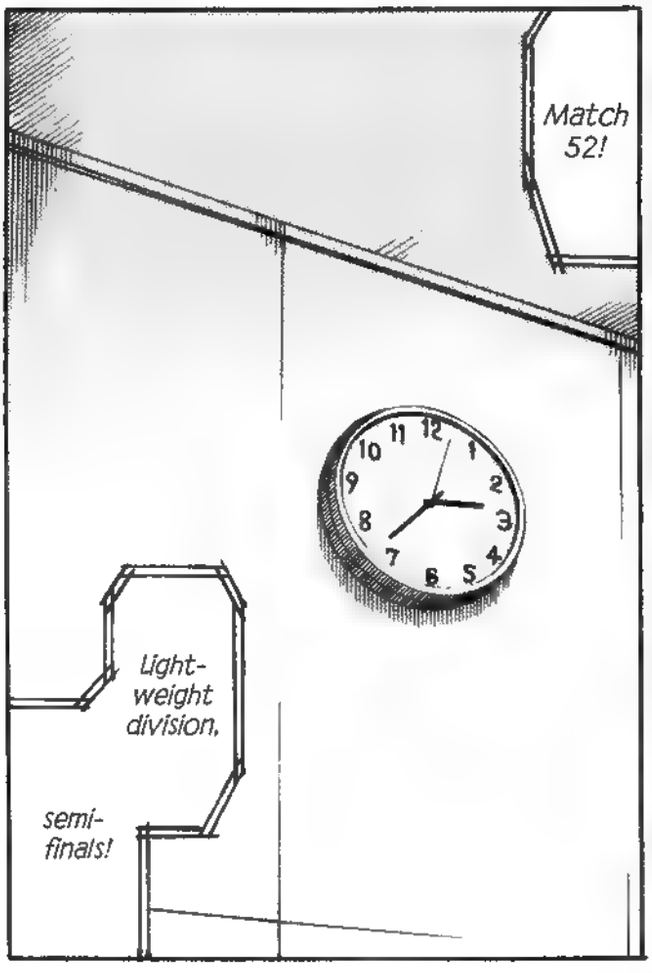
!
HEY, KEN-ICHIRO!
I'LL TAKE YUDAI TO THE HOSPITAL.
YOU STAY HERE AS MEGURU'S SECOND...
THIS IS YOUR JOB!


RIGHT!
LET'S GO, MEGURU!
GOT IT!
TAKESHI! I'M COUNTING ON YOU AS TIME-KEEPER!



LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE...
...HMPH.

...ME AND YAMABUKI IN THE FINAL.


Match 52!
Light-weight division, semi-finals!

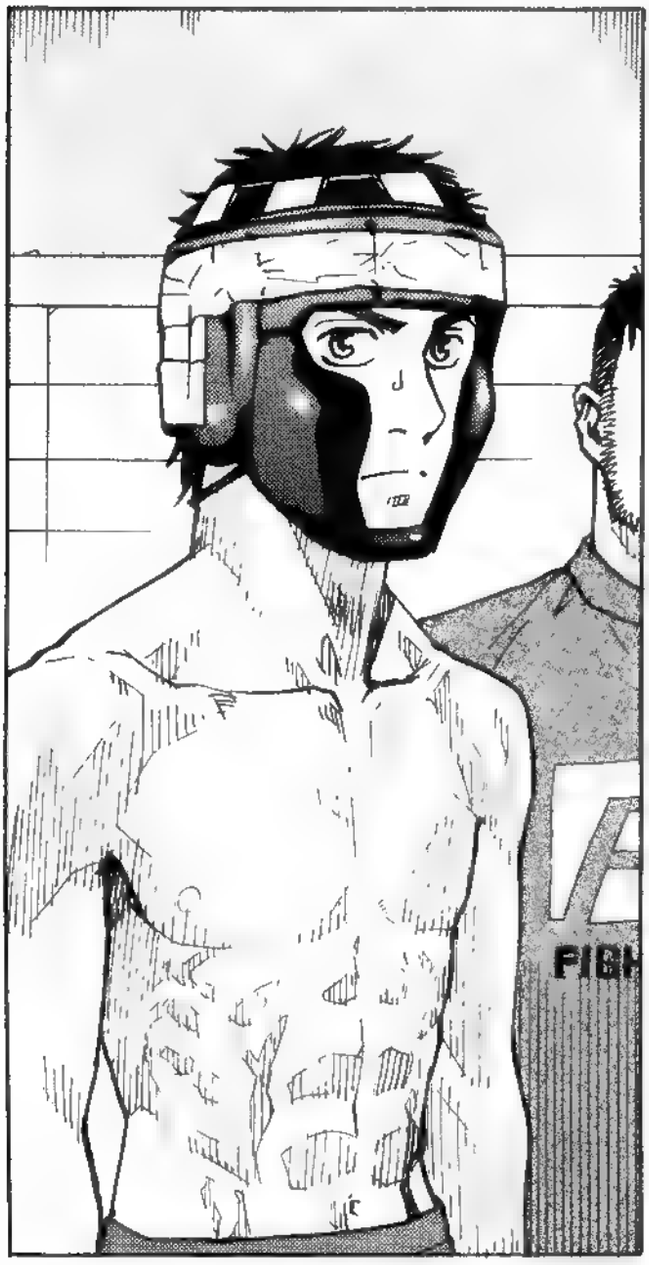
NOTHING'S SET IN STONE.
DON'T GET TOO COCKY!
I KNOW!

In the blue corner with Burnish...
...Takeshi Kagaya!
In the red corner with Fighters Brew...
...Meguru Takayanagi!

...

LET'S GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, YUDAI.
I JUST CALLED A TAXI...
URA...
...
...
CAN IT WAIT TILL AFTER...
...MEGURU'S FIGHT?

RIGHT!
JUST CONCEN-TRATE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YUDAI.
REMEMBER THE PLAN.
RIGHT!



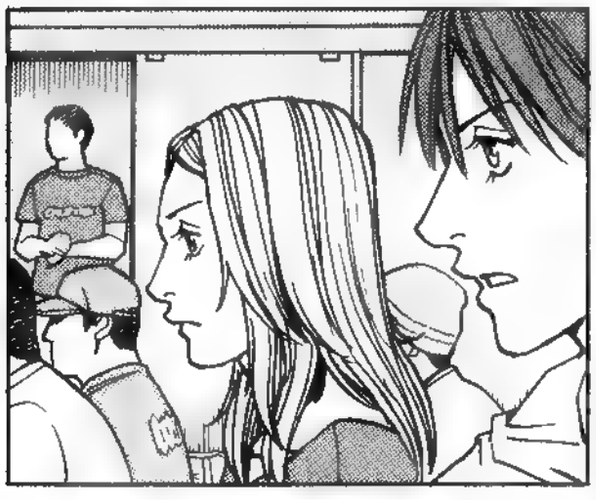
YOU'RE UP AGAINST KAGAYA NEXT...
HE'S GONNA BE A TOUGH ONE TO BRING DOWN.
HE'S GOT BOTH STRENGTH AND TECHNIQUE...
AND HE'S STRONG-WILLED, TOO.
HE NEVER LETS HIMSELF BE DOMINATED FROM THE TOP ON THE GROUND...
IN TERMS OF REACH, YOU'VE GOT HIM BEAT HANDS DOWN.
BUT AT 166 CM, HE'S SHORT FOR A LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER.
GO IN WITH A JAB,
AND IF IT LANDS, ALWAYS SIDESTEP.
DON'T GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A HOOK.
IF YOU ATTACK HIM HEAD-ON, HE'LL CATCH YOU IN A CLINCH.

JUST ACCEPT THAT YOU'RE GONNA GET THROWN.
AND IF HE DOES?
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T PIN YOU,
JUST STAND RIGHT UP AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
..AND ALMOST ALWAYS WORKS FOR ONE FROM THE CLINCH.
TARGET HIS PIVOT LEG WITH A STRONG KICK.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
WHEN IT COMES TO TAKEDOWNS, HE RARELY GOES FOR SINGLES OR DOUBLES...
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
WELL ...
A MIDDLE KICK'S THE BEST WAY TO GO!

WHAT I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT...
...IS MEGURU'S STAMINA.
WITH EVERYONE MEGURU'S TRIED THAT ON BEFORE...
...HE ENDED UP HAVING TO BACK OFF.
ANY MIDDLE KICK IN THAT SITUATION IS GOING TO BE WEAK, RIGHT?
HE BARELY MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS...
...AND HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY AT THE END OF HIS RESERVES.

...EVEN AN AMATEUR NEEDS THE EXPERIENCE OF A PRO.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT TO THE NATIONALS ...
IN MEGURU'S CASE...
YOU THINK MEGURU'S GOT THE CARDIO FOR THIS...?
...IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH.
AM I REALLY FIT TO BE A TRAINER ...?
SCREW IT! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE QUESTIONING MYSELF!
ギュッ
...I THOUGHT HE'D BE OK WITH WATANABE'S INTENSE TRAINING...
BUT HE'S STILL JUST A HIGH SCHOOLER.
AND YUDAI JUST ENDED UP MAKING HIS INJURY EVEN WORSE...

IN YOUR CORNERS!



FIGHT
!

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

MY FISTS HAVE NO STRENGTH
I WONDER IF I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH
I FEEL SO LIGHT-HEADED
MY WHOLE BODY FEELS SLUGGISH
DESPITE THE BREAK -

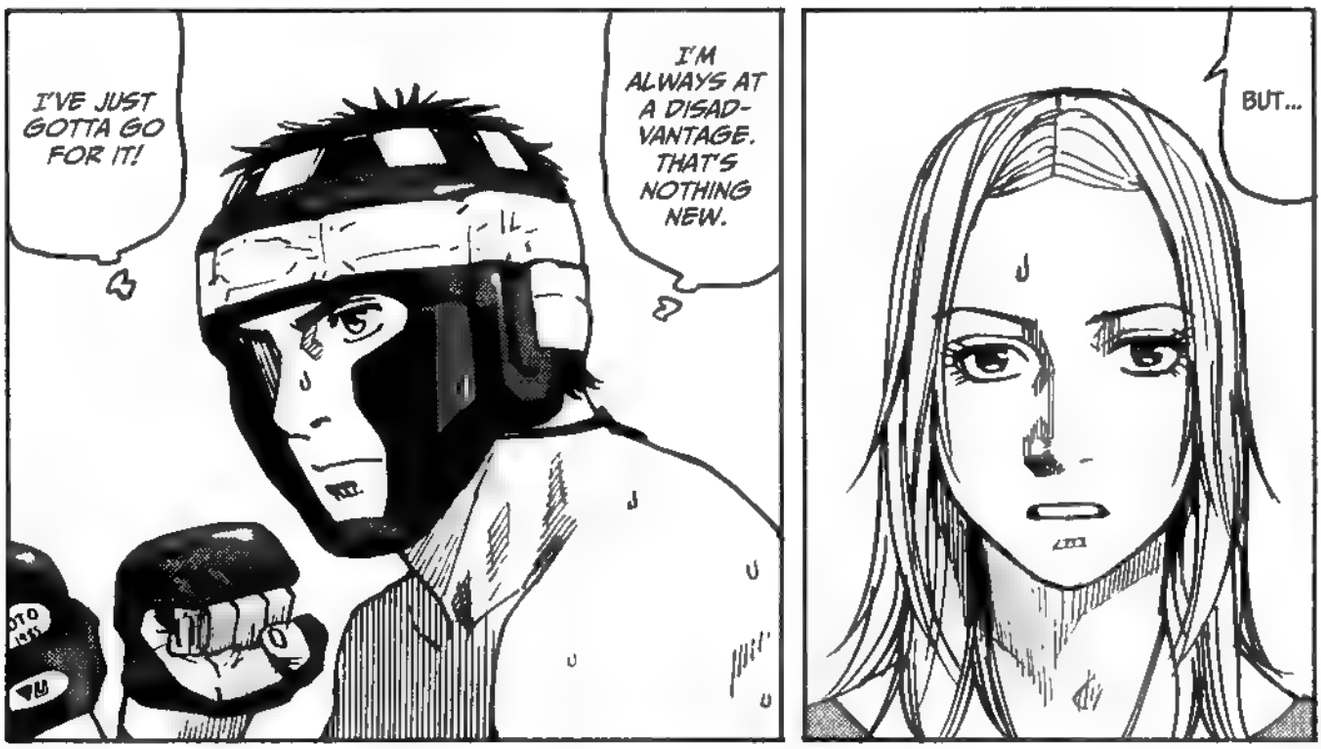
BIOTT
FIGHT GEAR
ASPIRE
LUTADOR
ASPIRE
ASPIRE

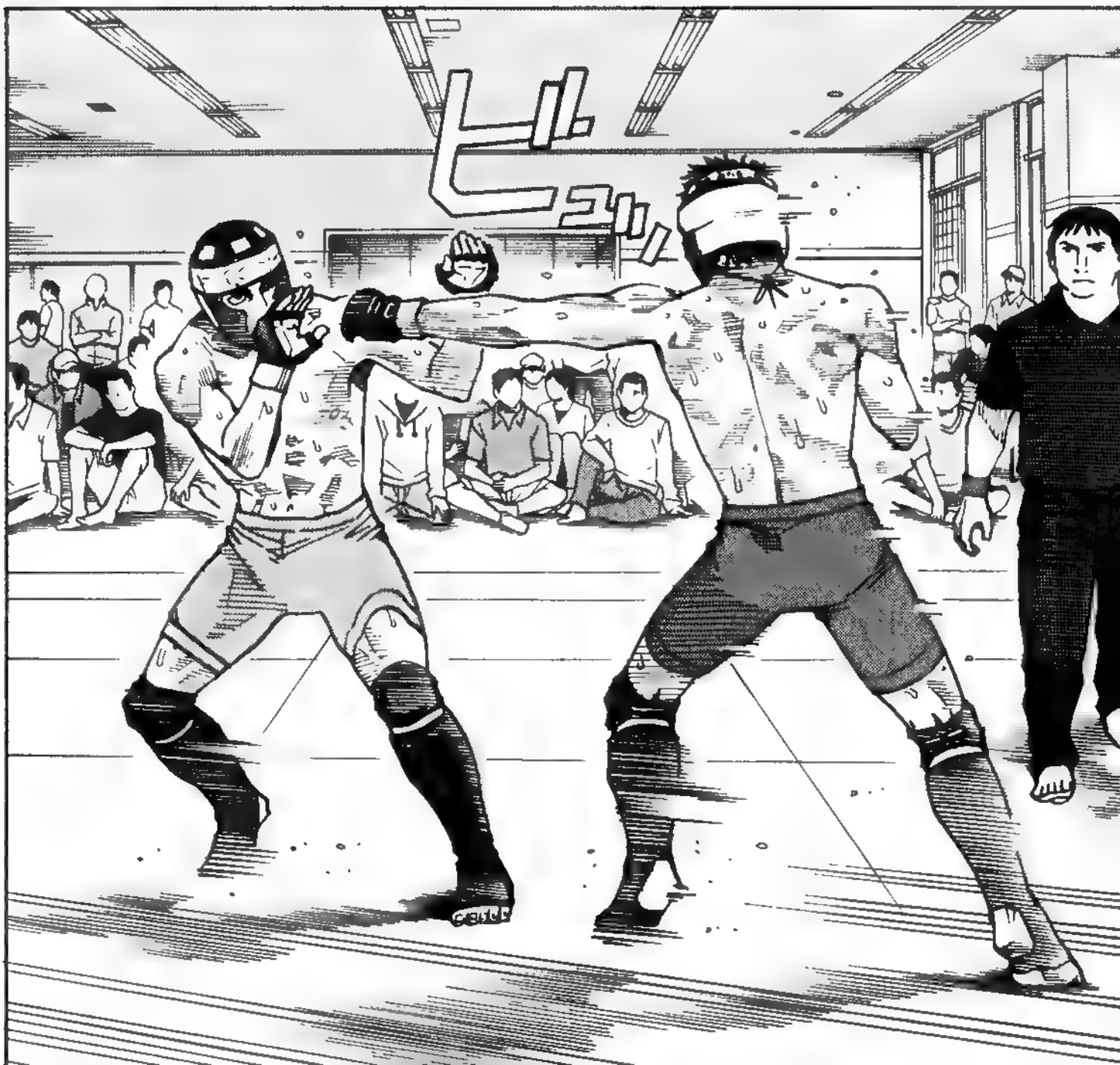
Shooto x G-Shock Collaboration Model

© Fuji Tour Planning Co.

FOUR MINUTES ...
THESE FOUR MINUTES ARE GOING TO BE TOTALLY UNLIKE ANYTHING MEGURU'S EVER EXPERIENCED...
AND HE DOESN'T HAVE THE STAMINA.
EACH VICTORY HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY HARD-WON.

HIS OPPONENT ON THE OTHER HAND HAS BEEN TRAINING, BUILDING UP STAMINA...
...*JUST* TO WIN THIS ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT.


I'VE JUST GOTTA GO FOR IT!
I'M ALWAYS AT A DISAD-VANTAGE. THAT'S NOTHING NEW.
BUT...

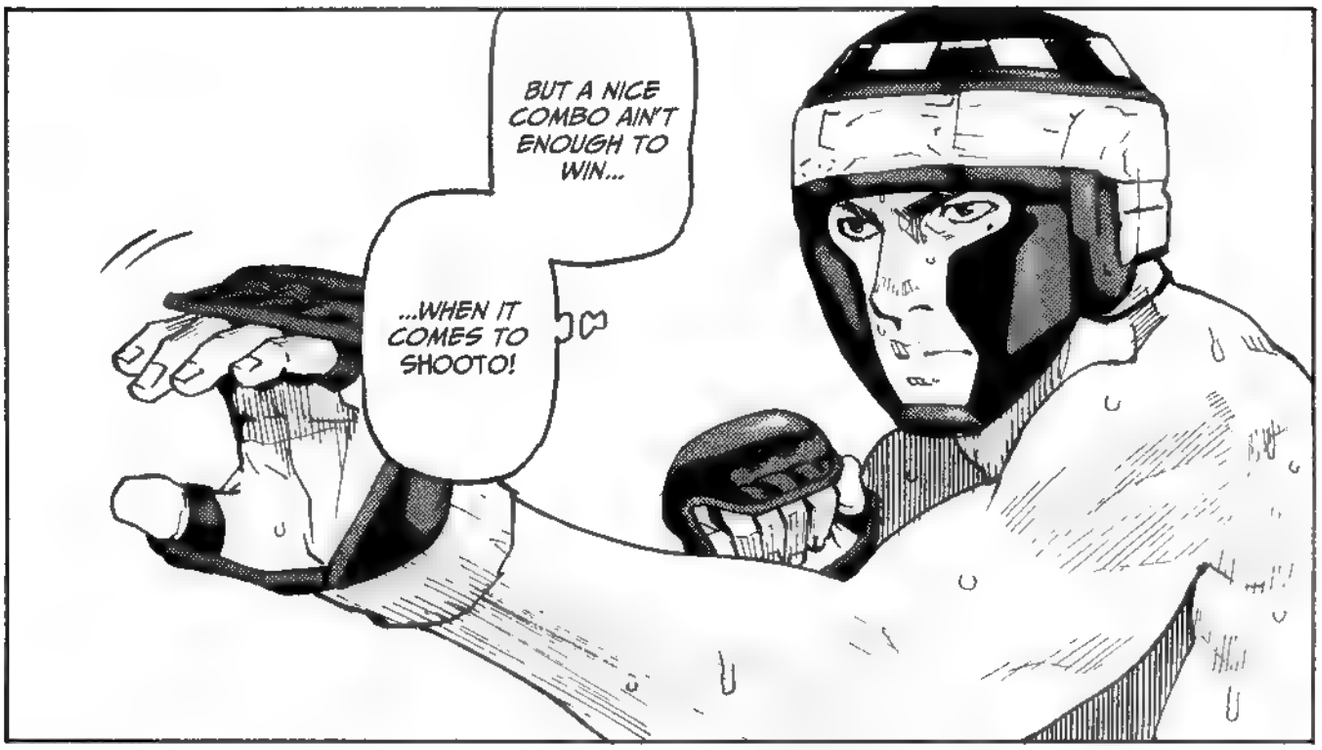

ヒュッ

ヒル
ユル

THAT JAB'S HARD TO SEE COMING.
I SEE.
HE KEEPS HIS ARMS IN CLOSE FOR A ONE-TWO PUNCH...

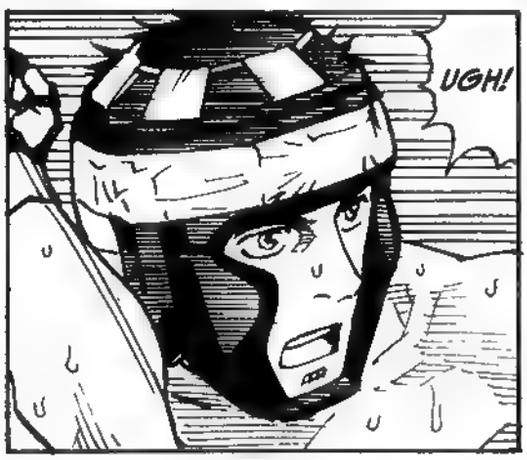
THAT'S IT, MEGURU!
TAKE THE LEAD!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, KAGAYA!
MAKE YOUR MOVE!


BUT A NICE COMBO AIN'T ENOUGH TO WIN...
...WHEN IT COMES TO SHOOTO!

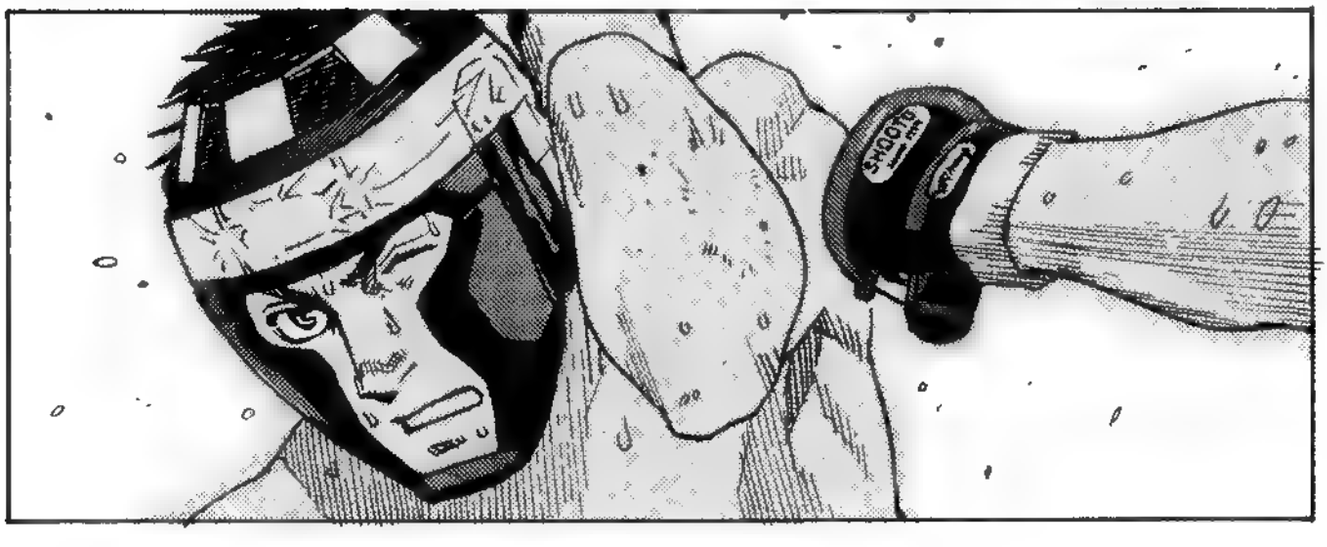
WHOA!
WHAT A KICK!
...!
!

!

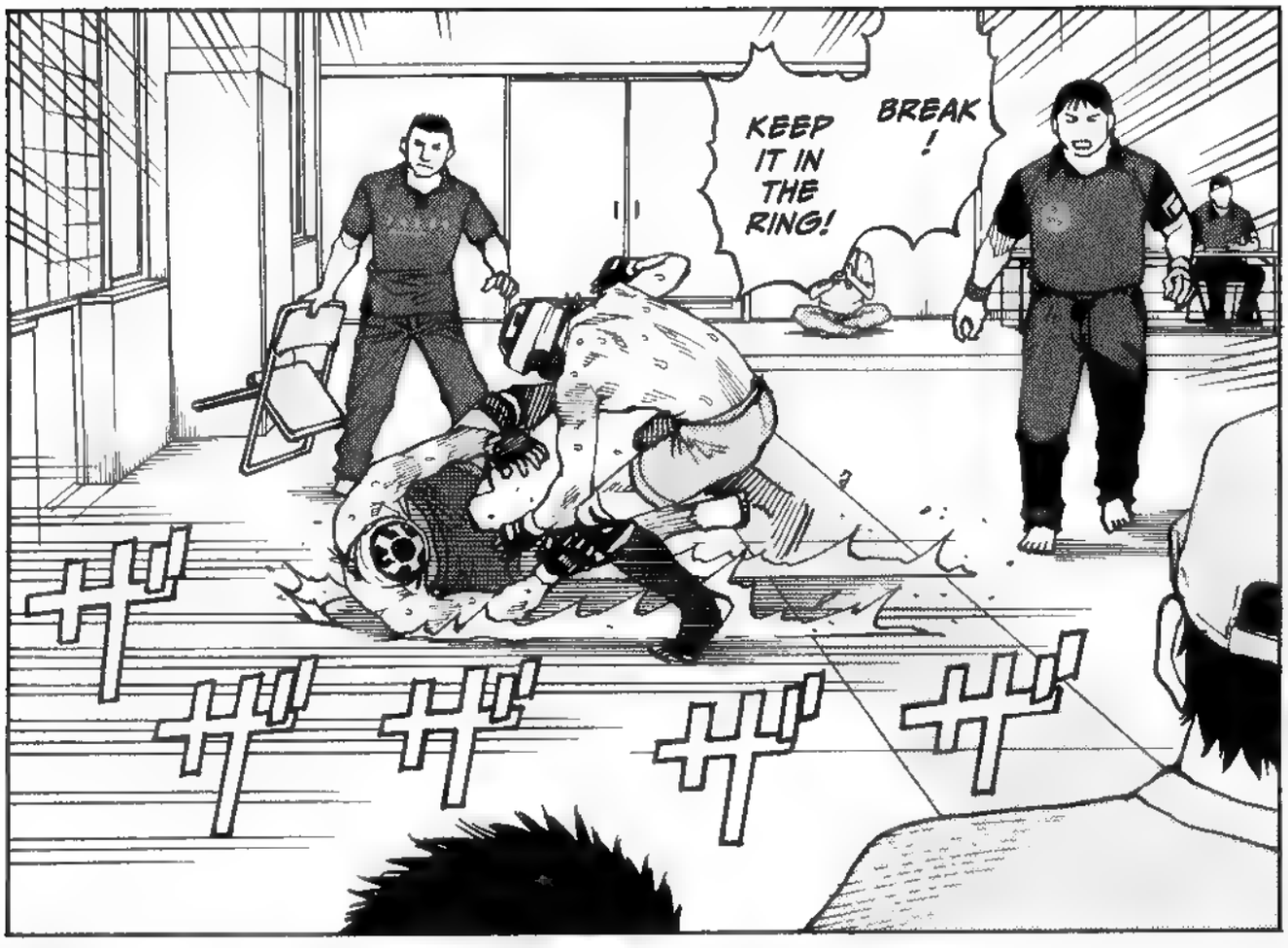

UGH!

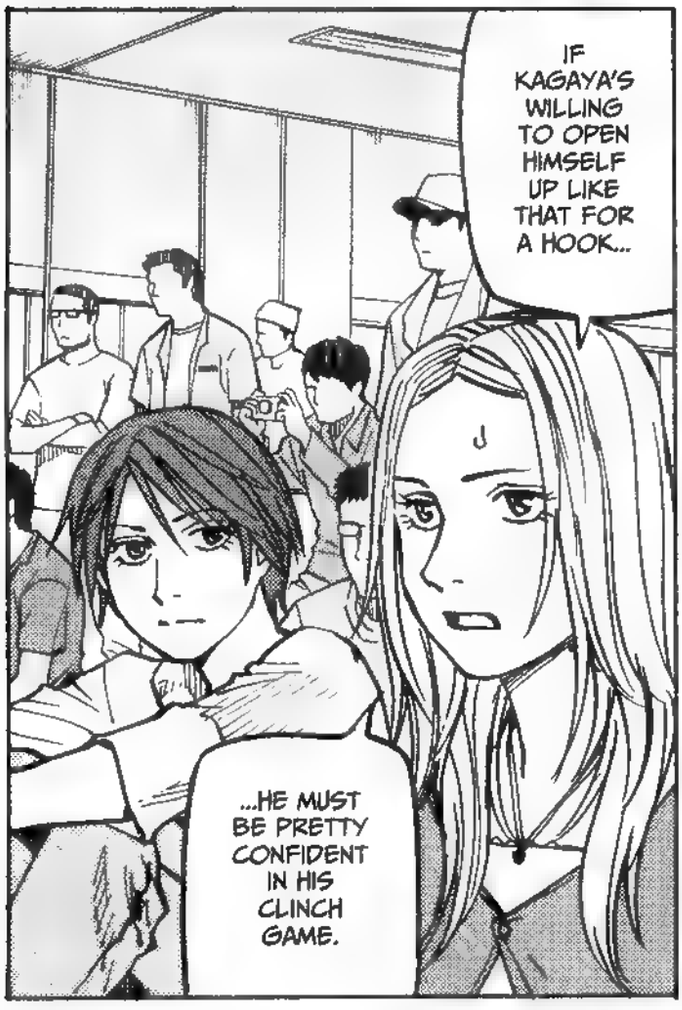
DON'T FALL BACK, MEGU-RU!
HE'S GONNA GET YOU!

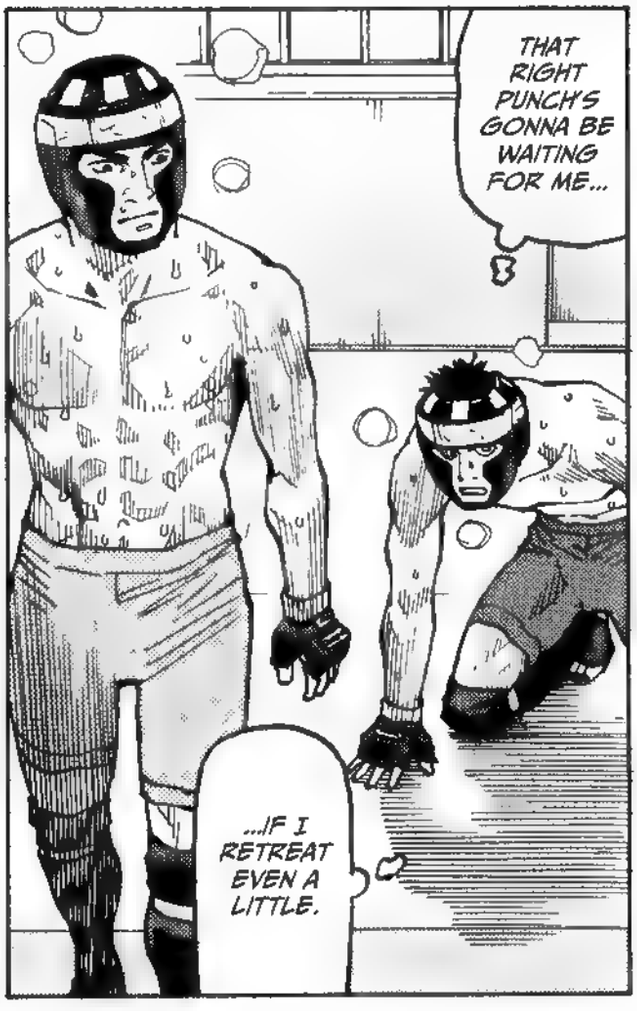
ナブ



OH SHIT!
HE'S CLINCHING ME!
ガッ!
!
ガガ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ


KEEP IT IN THE RING!
BREAK!

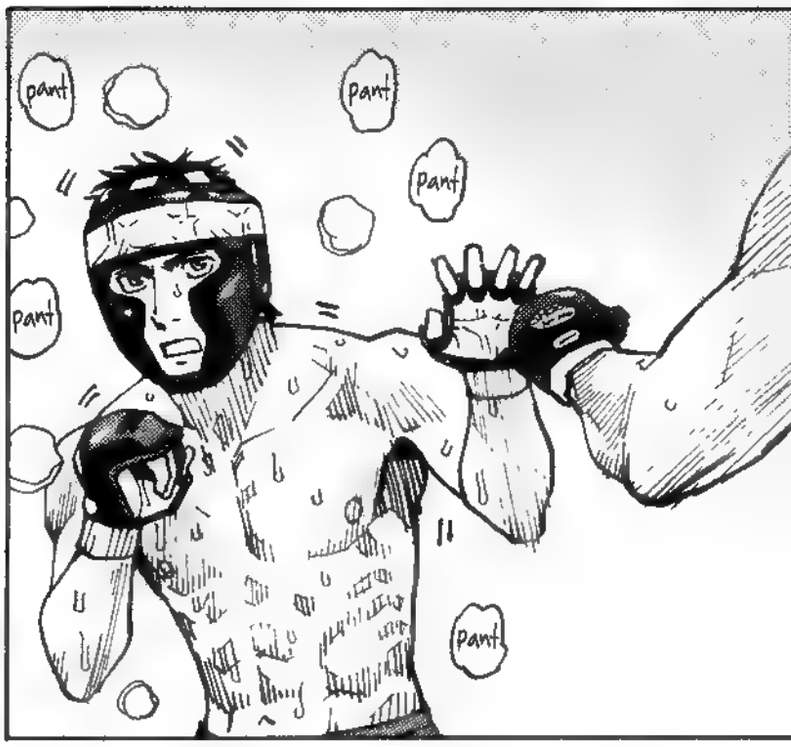

IF KAGAYA'S WILLING TO OPEN HIMSELF UP LIKE THAT FOR A HOOK...
...HE MUST BE PRETTY CONFIDENT IN HIS CLINCH GAME.


THAT RIGHT PUNCH'S GONNA BE WAITING FOR ME...
...IF I RETREAT EVEN A LITTLE.

THAT'S 40 SECONDS, MEGURU!
DON'T FALL BACK!
AND OF COURSE HE'S CONFIDENT IN HIS TAKEDOWN DEFENSE AS WELL.
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T LAND THE PUNCH, HE CAN SET THE PACE IF HE GOES IN FOR A CLINCH.
ANYWAY, HE'S A POWER-HOUSE WHO JUST KEEPS RELENT-LESSLY CLOSING IN.
FIGHT!

I COULD GET HIM WITH A LEFT MIDDLE KICK AND A KNEE TO THE CHEST...
...BUT HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO LET THAT STOP HIM.
IN THAT CASE...
TA-KASHI.
YEAH ?
THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THIS GUY?
...I'D JUST HAVE TO LET HIM HAVE HIS CLINCH...
...AND BEAT HIM AT HIS OWN GAME.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO WIN.

MEGURU'S ALREADY OUT OF BREATH.
I KNOW HE'S GOT A TOUGH OPPONENT, BUT STILL...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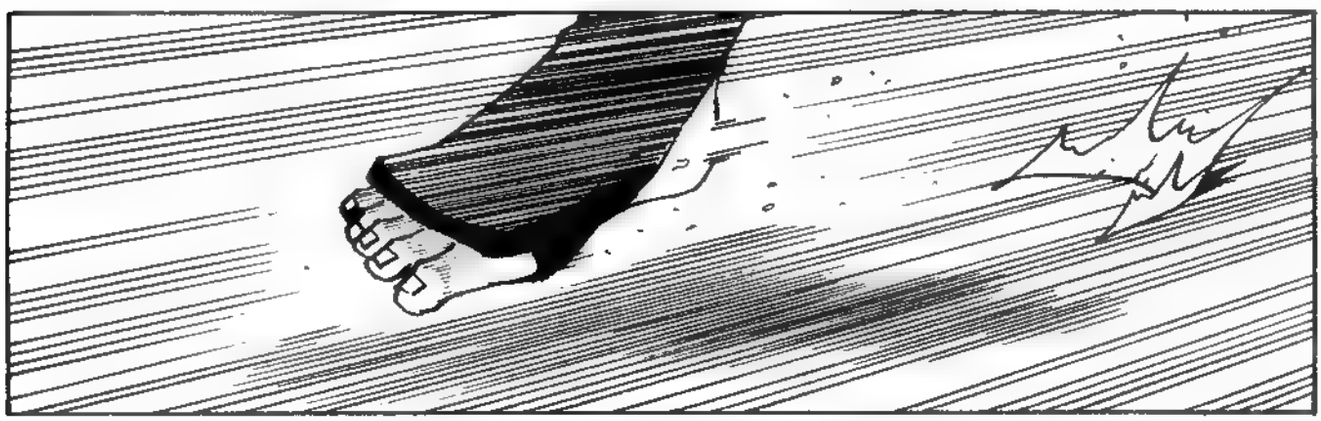
pant
pant
pant
pant

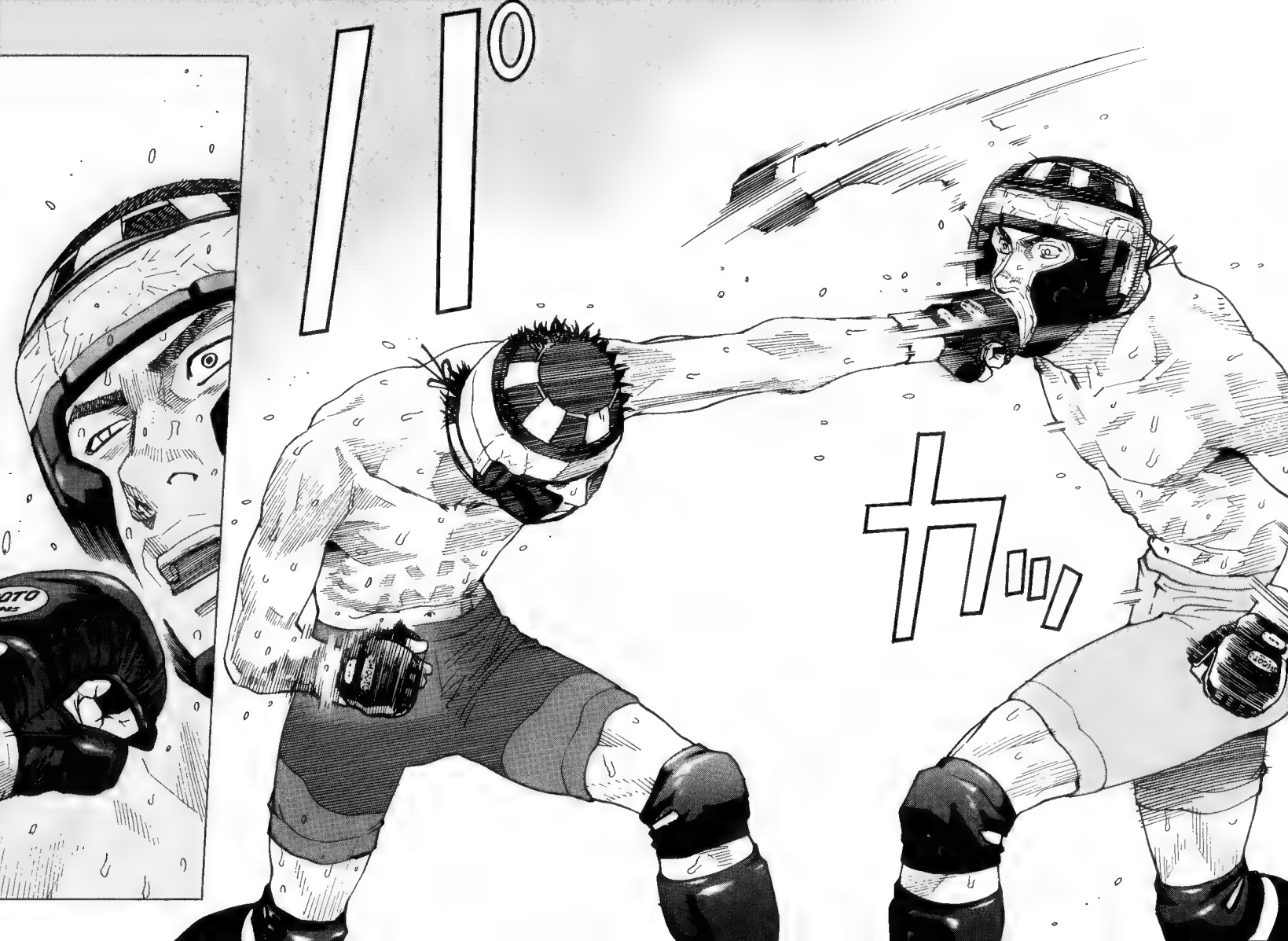


!!

DAMN HE'S FAST!

HE REALLY LANDED THAT ONE...!
IF I RETREAT, IT'S OVER!
SHIT ...

HERE COMES THE RIGHT HOOK!
STAND YOUR GROUND!
STOP HIM!
DON'T FALL BACK!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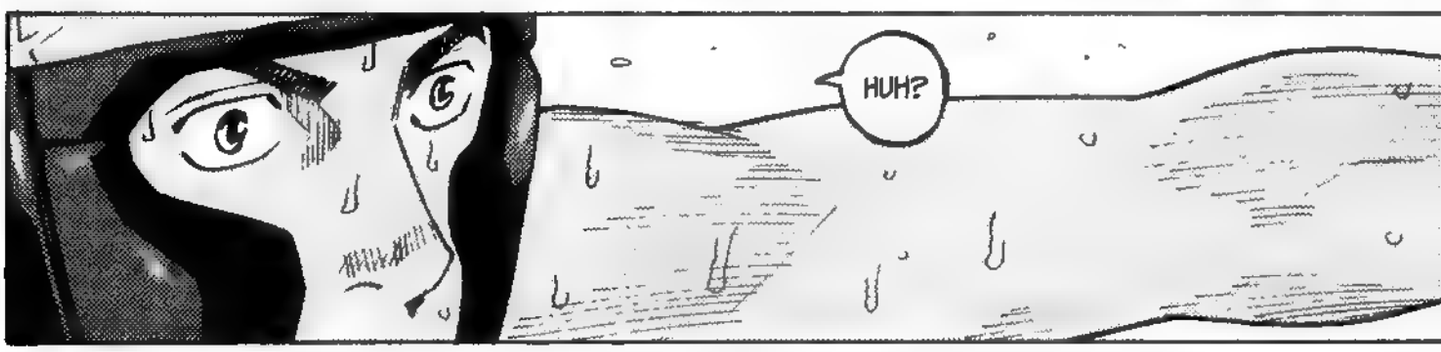
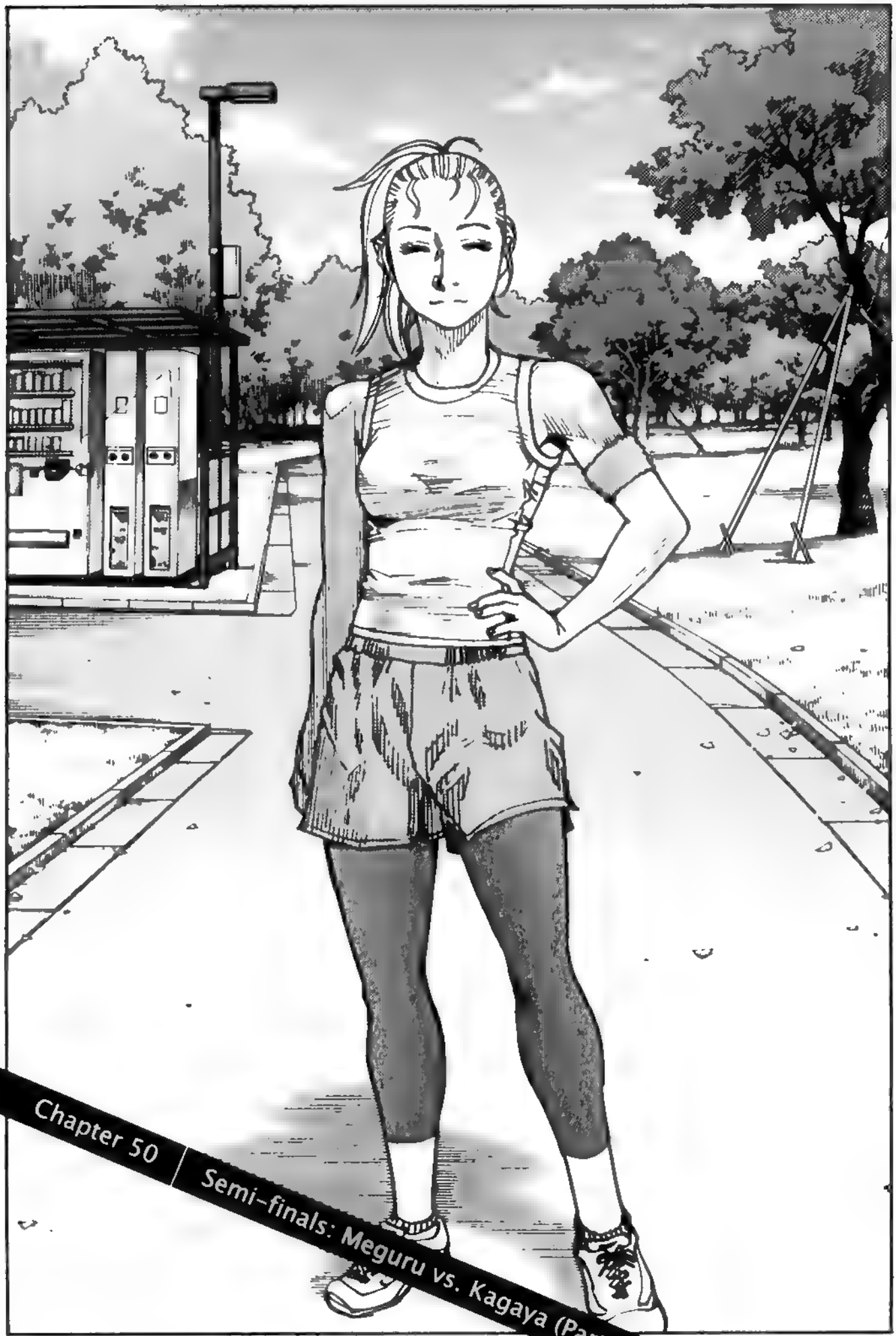
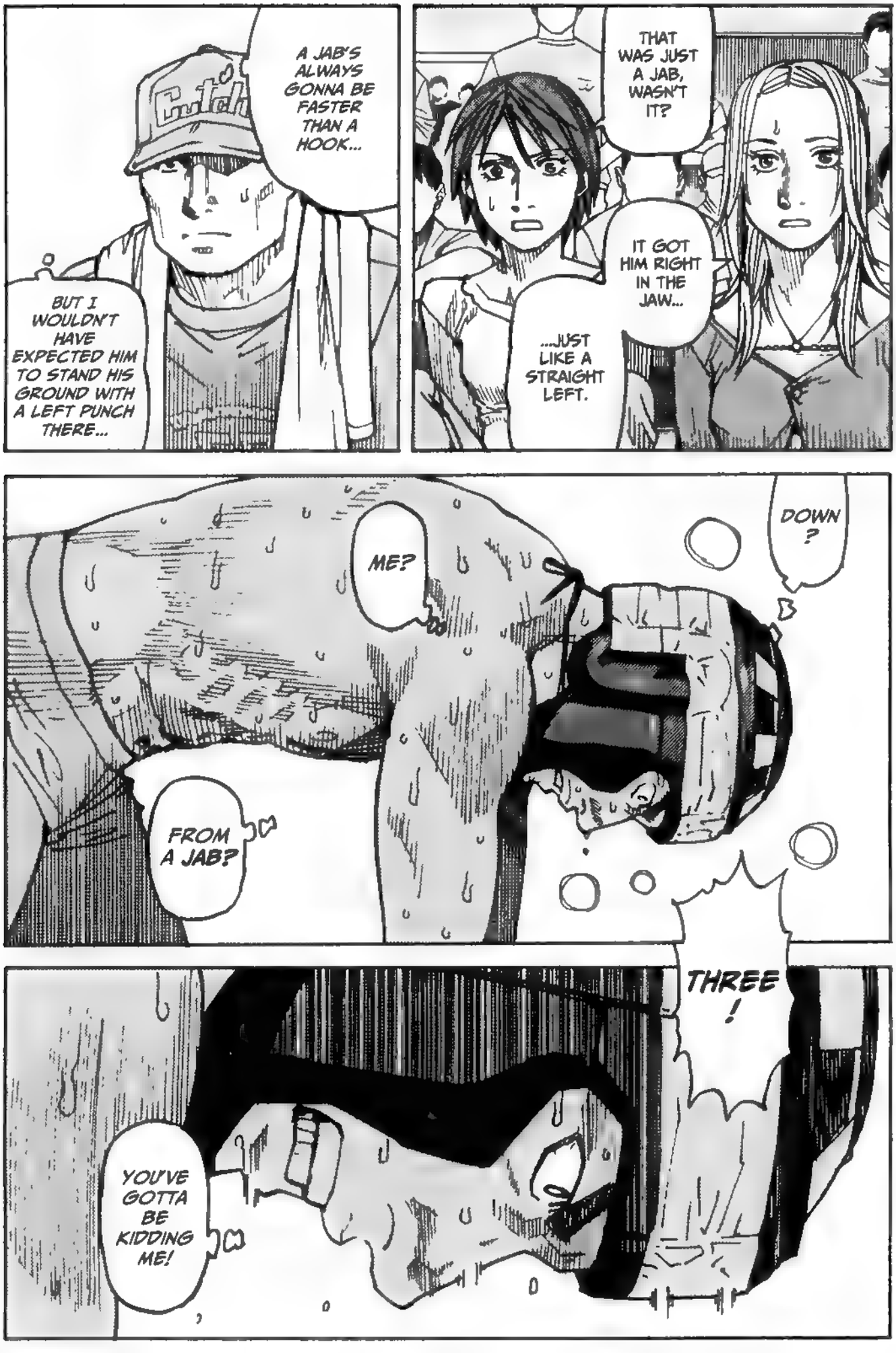

HUH?

DOWN!



Chapter 50 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 3)

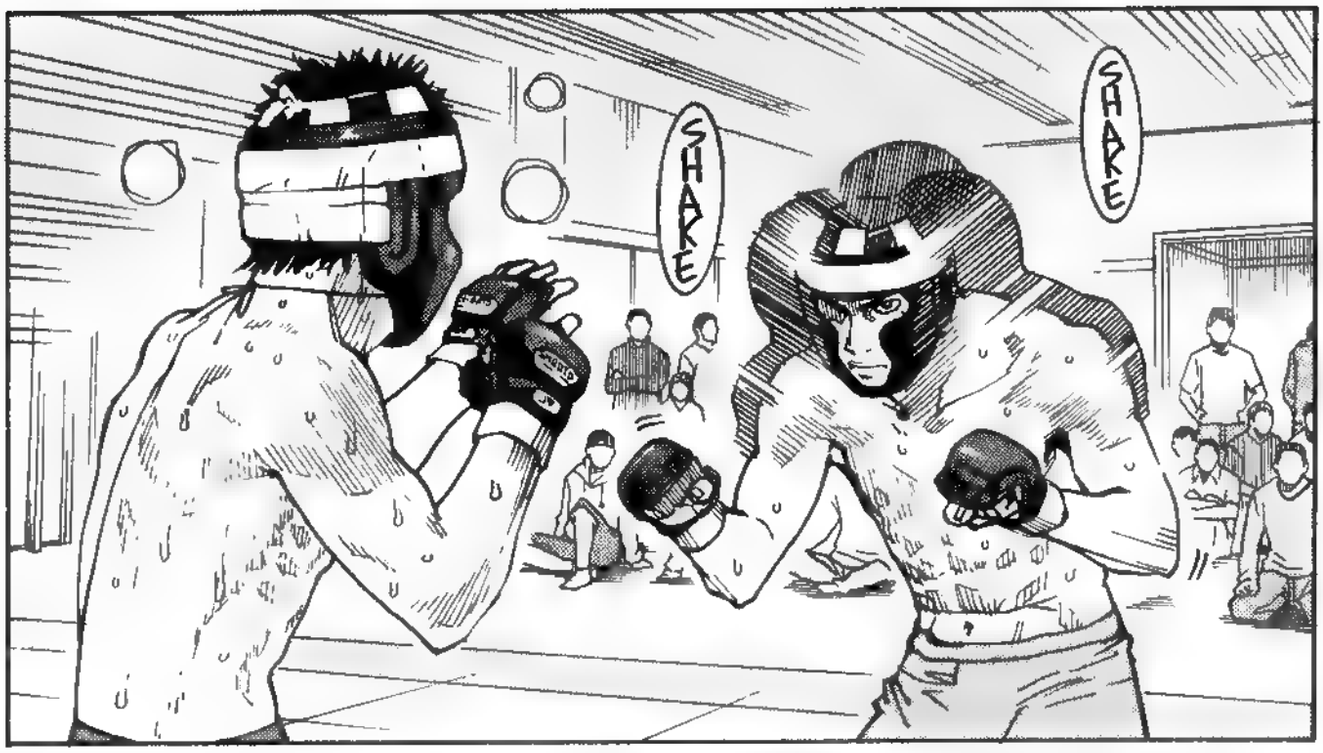
DOWN!
TWO!
ONE!


A JAB'S ALWAYS GONNA BE FASTER THAN A HOOK...
BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED HIM TO STAND HIS GROUND WITH A LEFT PUNCH THERE...
THAT WAS JUST A JAB, WASN'T IT?
IT GOT HIM RIGHT IN THE JAW...
...JUST LIKE A STRAIGHT LEFT.
ME?
DOWN?
FROM A JAB?
THREE!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

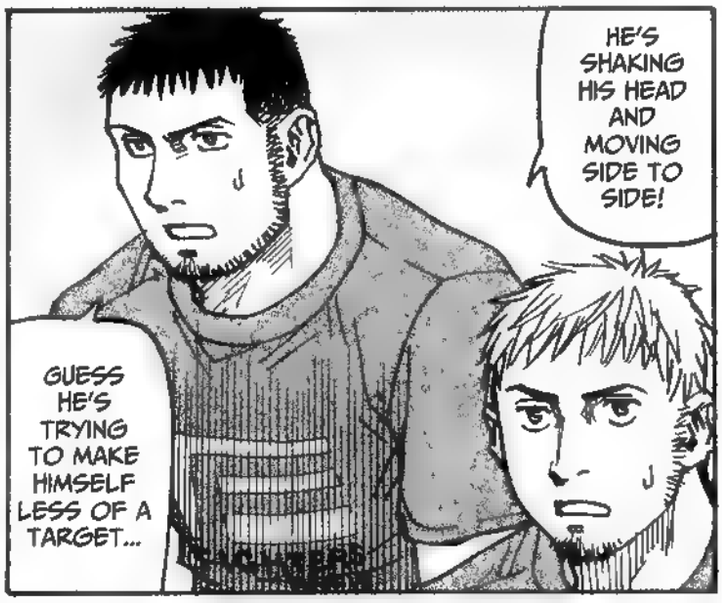
HE'S UP.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA GET KO'D WITH ONE JAB.
FOUR!
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'LL JUST MAKE HIM TIGHTEN UP HIS GAME...
I HOPE THIS SHAKES THE GUY UP A BIT...
FIRST KITAMURA, NOW THIS KID...
THAT GYM'S FIGHTERS HAVE A SURPRISINGLY STRONG ONE-TWO PUNCH....

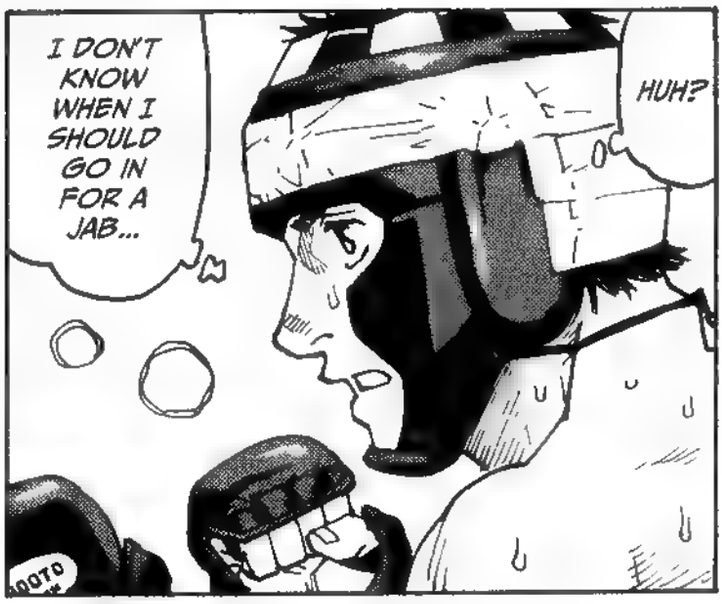
THESE LAST SIX MONTHS...
...MEGURU AND I HAVE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT ONE-TWO COMBOS.
USUALLY WITH SHOOTO, FIGHTERS AREN'T HAPPY...
...CONCENTRATING ON SOMETHING AS BASIC AS THE OLD ONE-TWO.
"KEEP YOUR ARM IN CLOSE," SHE SAID, OVER AND OVER.
AGAINST THE WALL.
IN FRONT OF THE MIR-ROR.
Her
"IF YOU GO IN SWINGING A HOOK, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF CAUGHT BY A STRAIGHT PUNCH."
HOW MANY TIMES DID I HEAR HER SAY THAT...?
WHEN WE USED MITTS, IT WAS ALWAYS ONE-TWO PUNCHES FOLLOWED BY A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.

FIGHT!
SHAKE
I JUST HAVE TO STAND MY GROUND!
AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD WITH JABS...
HUH ...?
!


SHAKE
SHAKE

I UNDERES-TIMATED YOU...
SHAKE
BUT YOU WON'T LAND ANOTHER PUNCH!

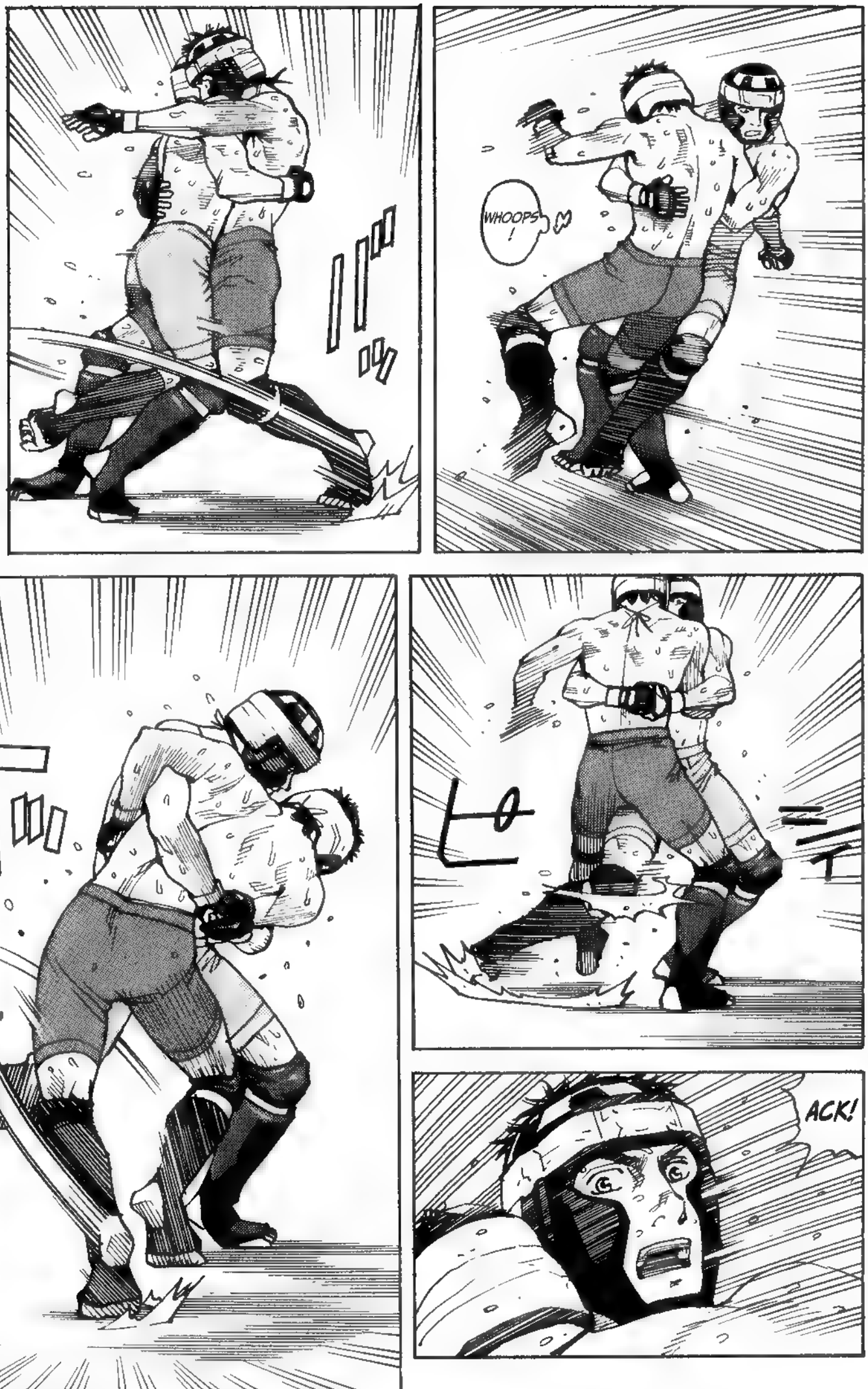

HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD AND MOVING SIDE TO SIDE!
GUESS HE'S TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF LESS OF A TARGET...


I DON'T KNOW WHEN I SHOULD GO IN FOR A JAB...
HUH?

IF HIGH'S NO GOOD, I'LL GO FOR LOW!
I CAN BRING HIM DOWN WITH A KICK!

HE GOT CHECKED!
OW ...!
I'VE GOTTA GET CLOSER ..!
HE'S GOT MEGU-RU'S NUMBER ...
ヒル
ユヅリ

HE CAUGHT HIM!
WHOA!
MEGURU! GET UNDER-HOOKS! TURN THE TABLES ON HIM!


WHOOPS!
ACK!

DAMN IT...
...!!
MEGURU! STAY ON YOUR FEET! DON'T LET HIM TRIP YOU!
...BUT HE'S COME A LONG WAY, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
ALL THAT STAND-UP WRESTLING WITH WATANABE AND YUDAI PAID OFF.
HE'S GOTTEN GOOD AT THIS.
WAS MEGURU ALWAYS THIS STRONG?
!
AND SO DID YOUR CLINCHES, MAKI.
HE MAY NOT HAVE ANY FLASHY MOVES...

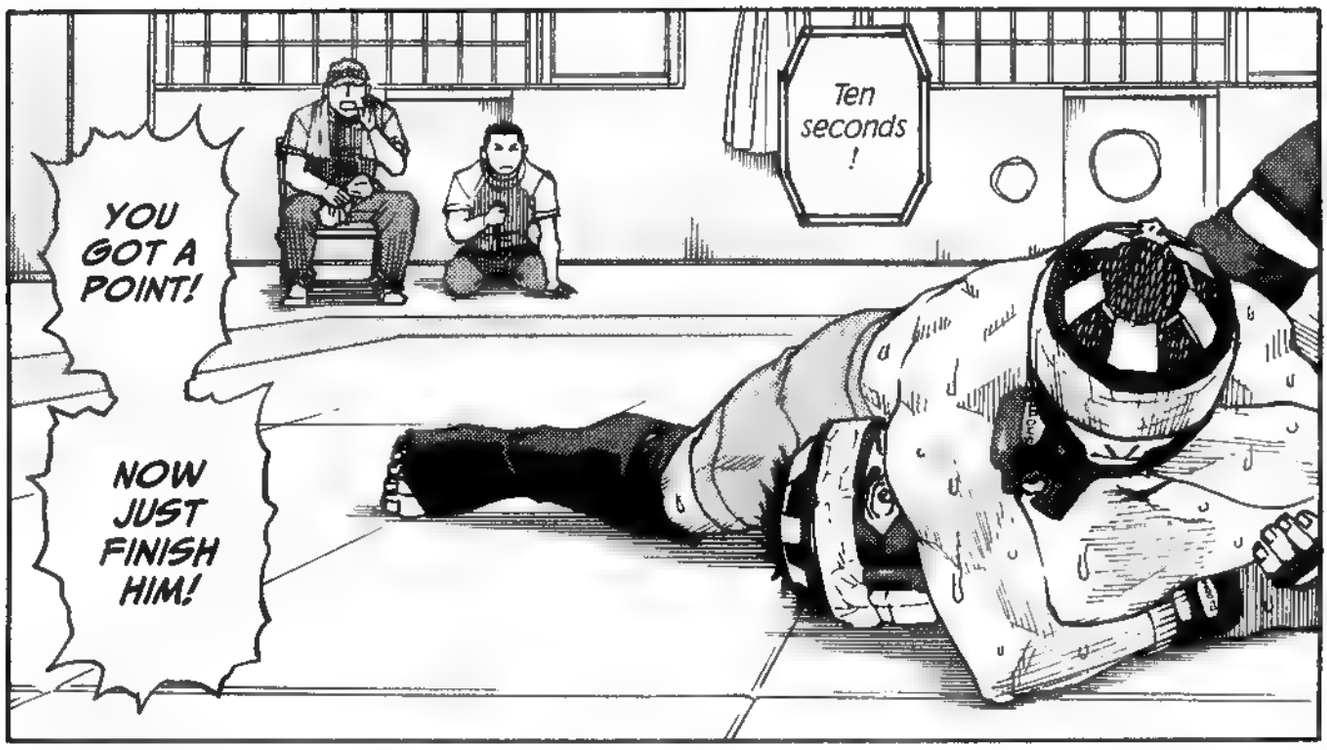
ANOTHER OUTER HOOK ?!
!
...I'M ABOUT TO GET SERIOUS!
BUT ...
NOT BAD...
!

HALF GUARD!
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
GRAB
NOW GET YOUR OTHER LEG OUT!

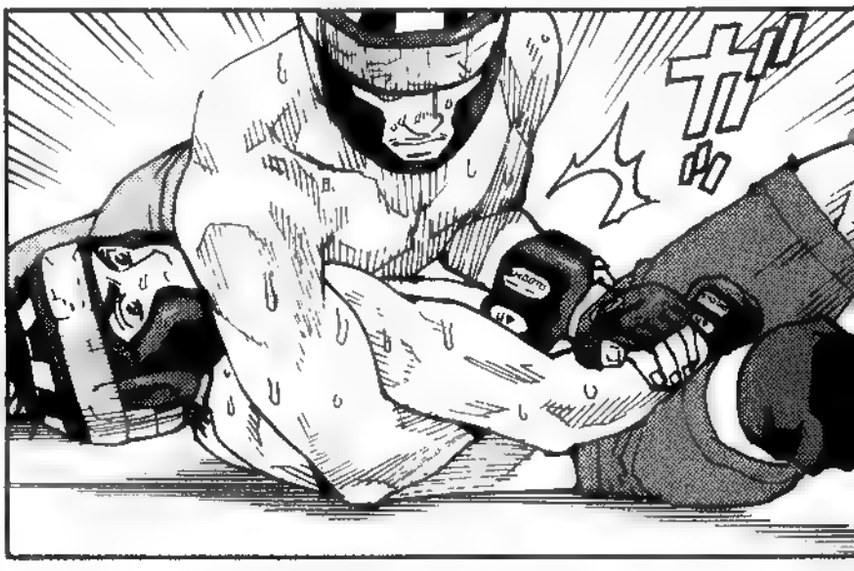
HELL YEAH!
GOOD JOB, KAGAYA!

HE'S GOOD.
HE WENT FROM AN OUTER HOOK FEINT INTO A HIP THROW...

WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
HIS GUARD PASS DEFENSE SUCKS AS USUAL...
DOES THAT IDIOT ALWAYS NEED TO BE IN A PINCH TO WIN?!
SIDE CON-TROL!
PIN!
I'VE GOT NO ROOM TO CREATE A BRIDGE!
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS PIN HOLD?!


Ten seconds !
YOU GOT A POINT!
NOW JUST FINISH HIM!

HE'S WORKING FOR A KIMURA!
KEEP YOUR ARM IN!

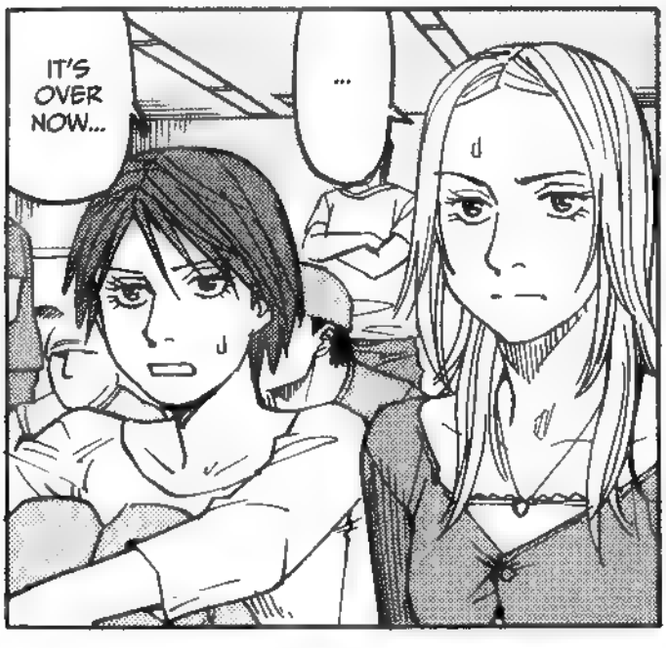


WAHH!

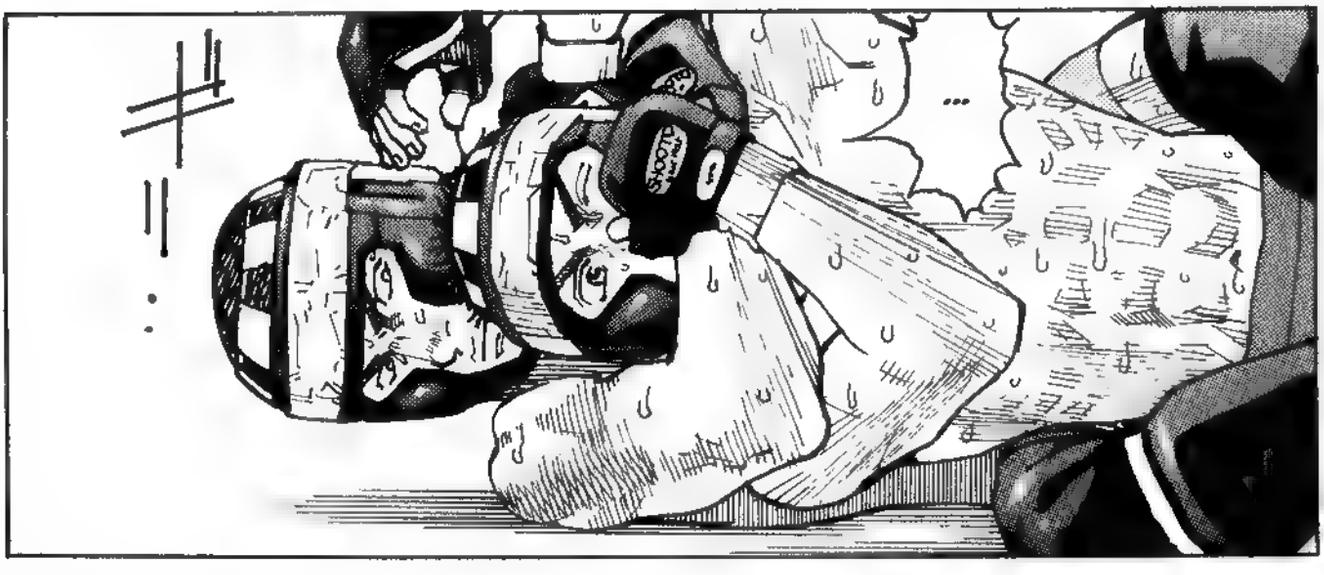
CATCH
!
!
TCH!

GRAB
AH!

GUARD YOUR NECK!
MEGURU! DON'T PANIC!
BACK CON-TROL.


IT'S OVER NOW...
...

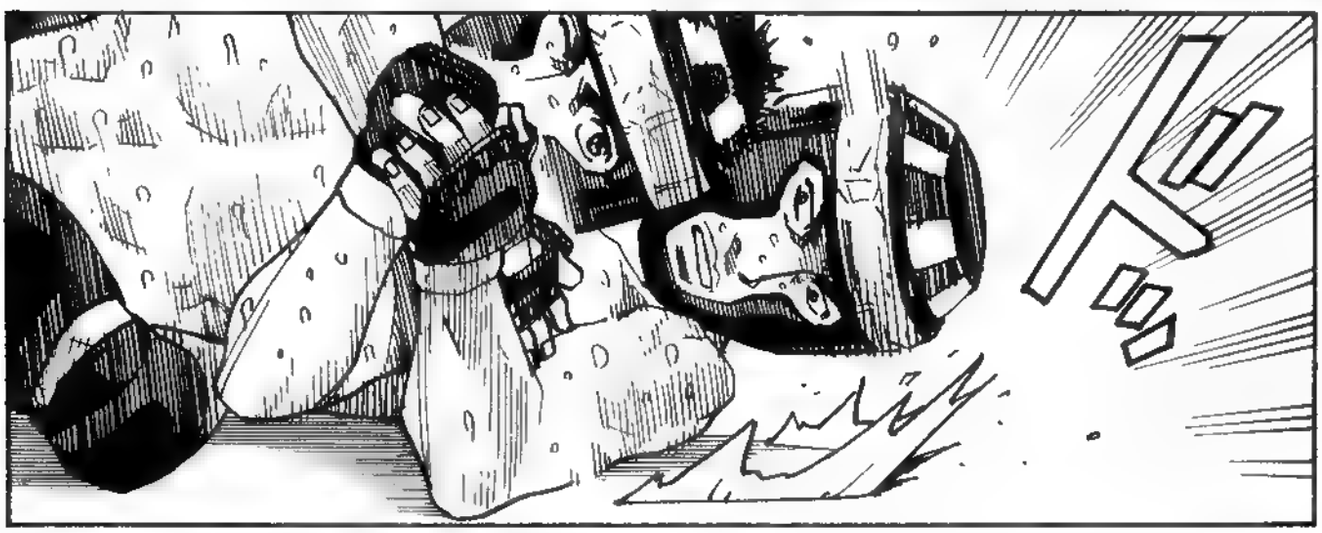
HE EVEN MANAGED TO CAPTURE MEGURU'S BACK!
HE'S STRONG ...

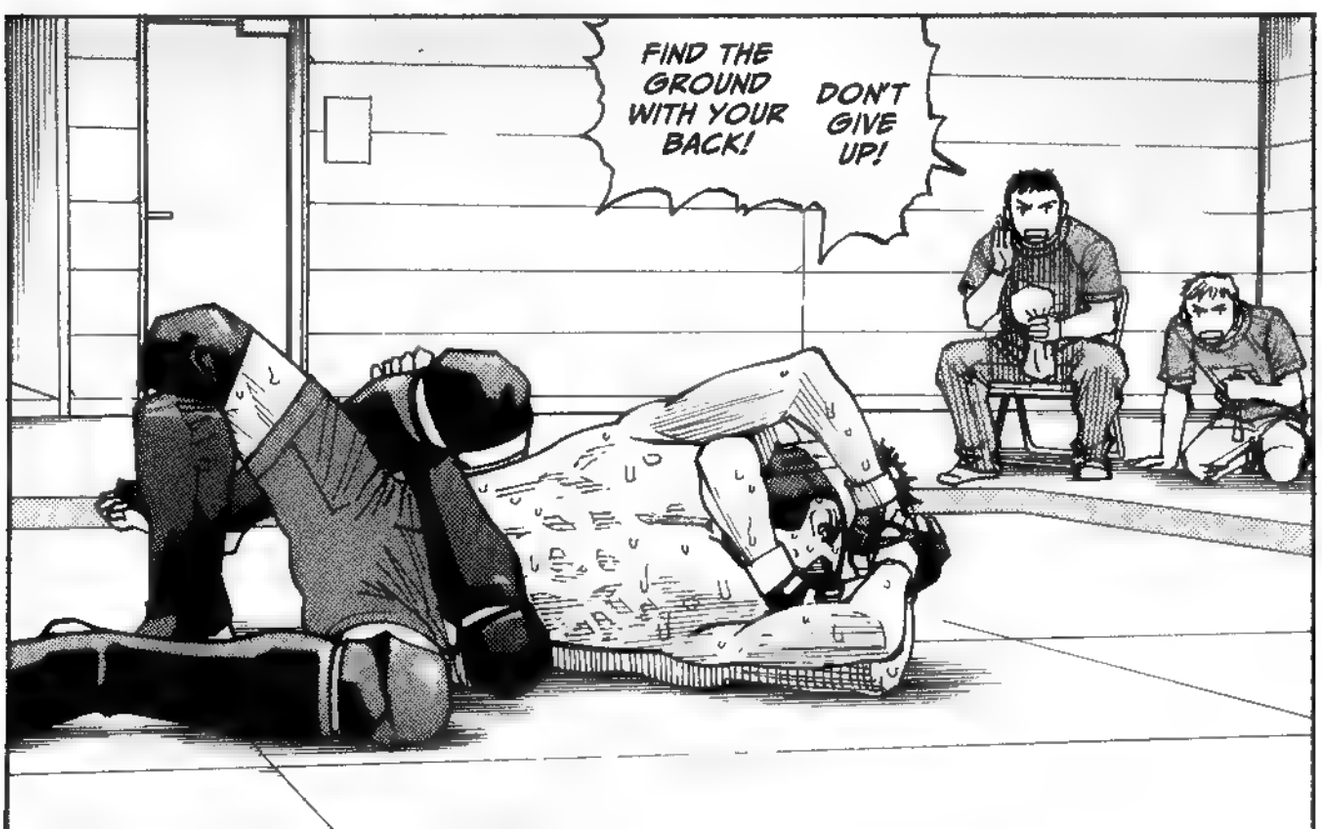

...

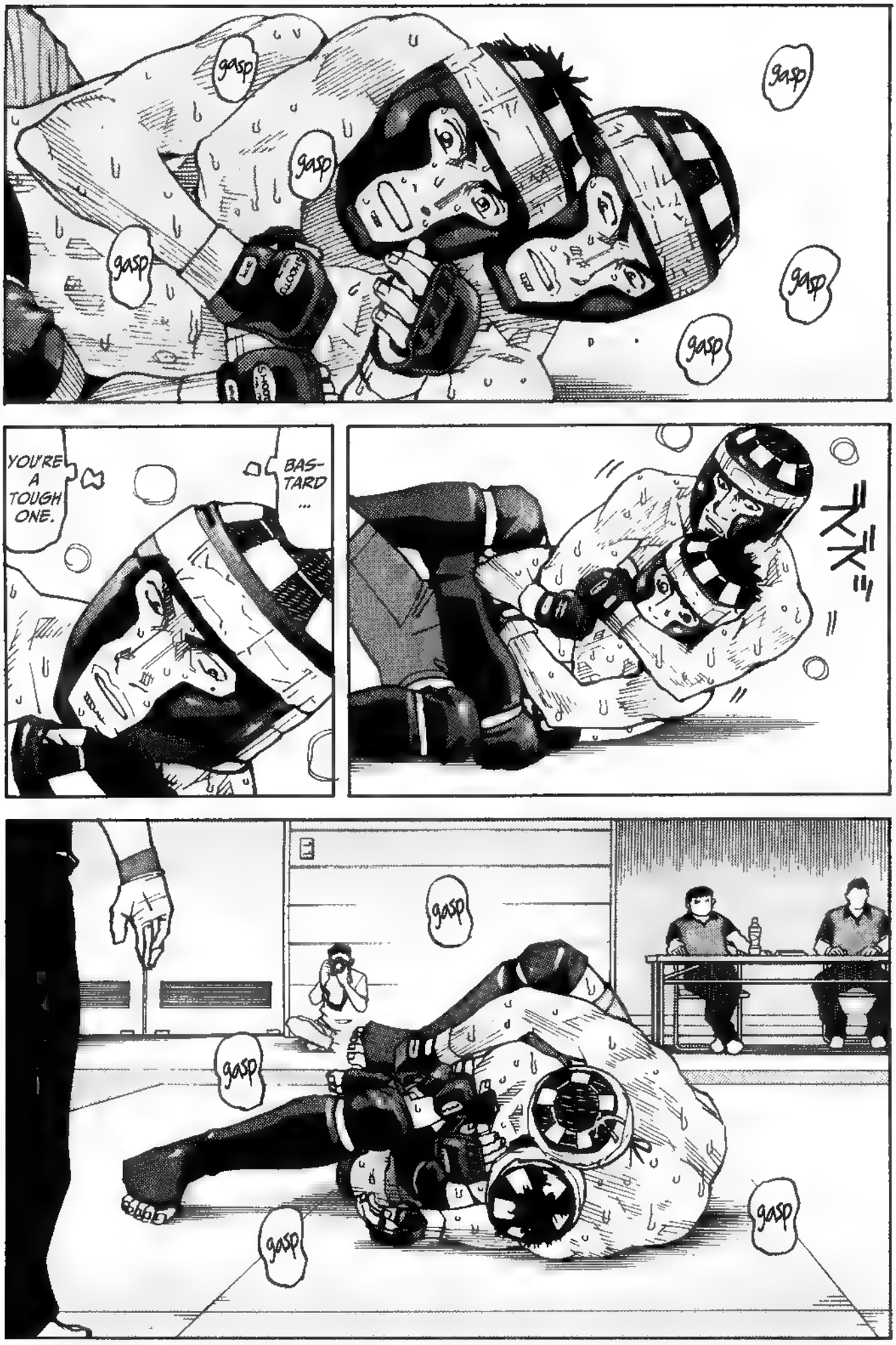
MEGURU! DON'T STOP!
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
THROW HIM FOR-WARD!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP STRUG-GLING...?
YOU'RE ALREADY GASSED...

Chapter 51 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 4)

MEGURU, GET YOUR ASS UP AND FLIP HIM OVER!

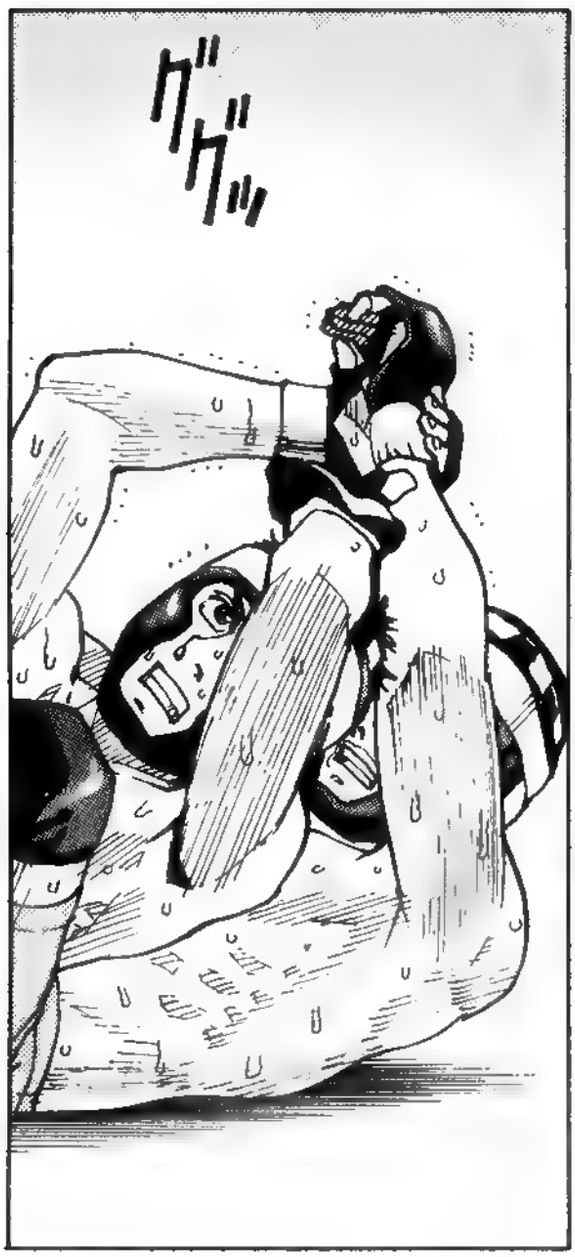



FIND THE GROUND WITH YOUR BACK!
DON'T GIVE UP!


gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE.
BAS-TARD ...
ズズッ
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

MAYBE HIS ARMS ARE TOO *FAT* TO GET AROUND MEGURU'S NECK?
HMM... COULD BE, BUT...

MEGURU'S NOT DOING TOO BAD.
THE OTHER GUY'S GOT A PRETTY BIG POINT LEAD, THOUGH...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...THE FACT THAT MEGURU WAS ABLE TO WITHSTAND OGASAWARA'S ATTACK...
...MEANS HE HAS THE *PHYSICAL STRENGTH* TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM SUBMITTING HIM.

ぐるん
んっっ

OH, WOW!
HE FLIPPED OVER!

ばっ!!

HE'S GOING FOR A TRIANGLE CHOKE!
CARE-FUL, MEGURU!

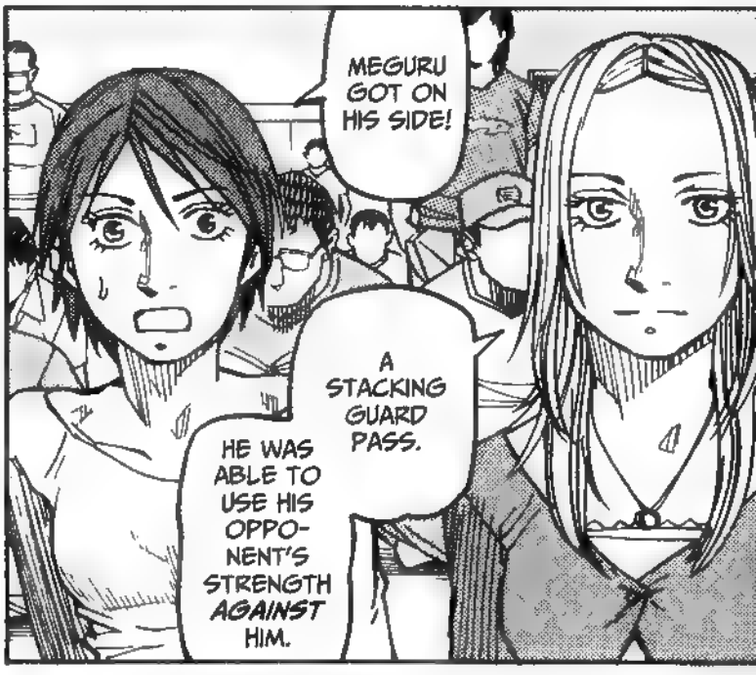
HRG!

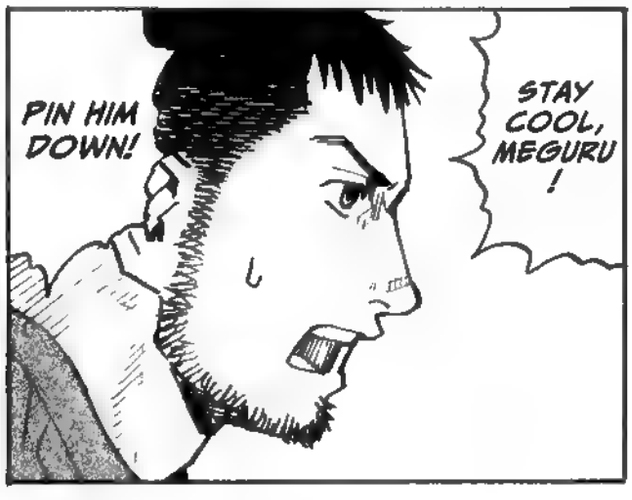
GET YOUR CHEST OUT! TWIST YOUR HIPS! DON'T PANIC!
JUST CALM DOWN AND WORK IT OUT!

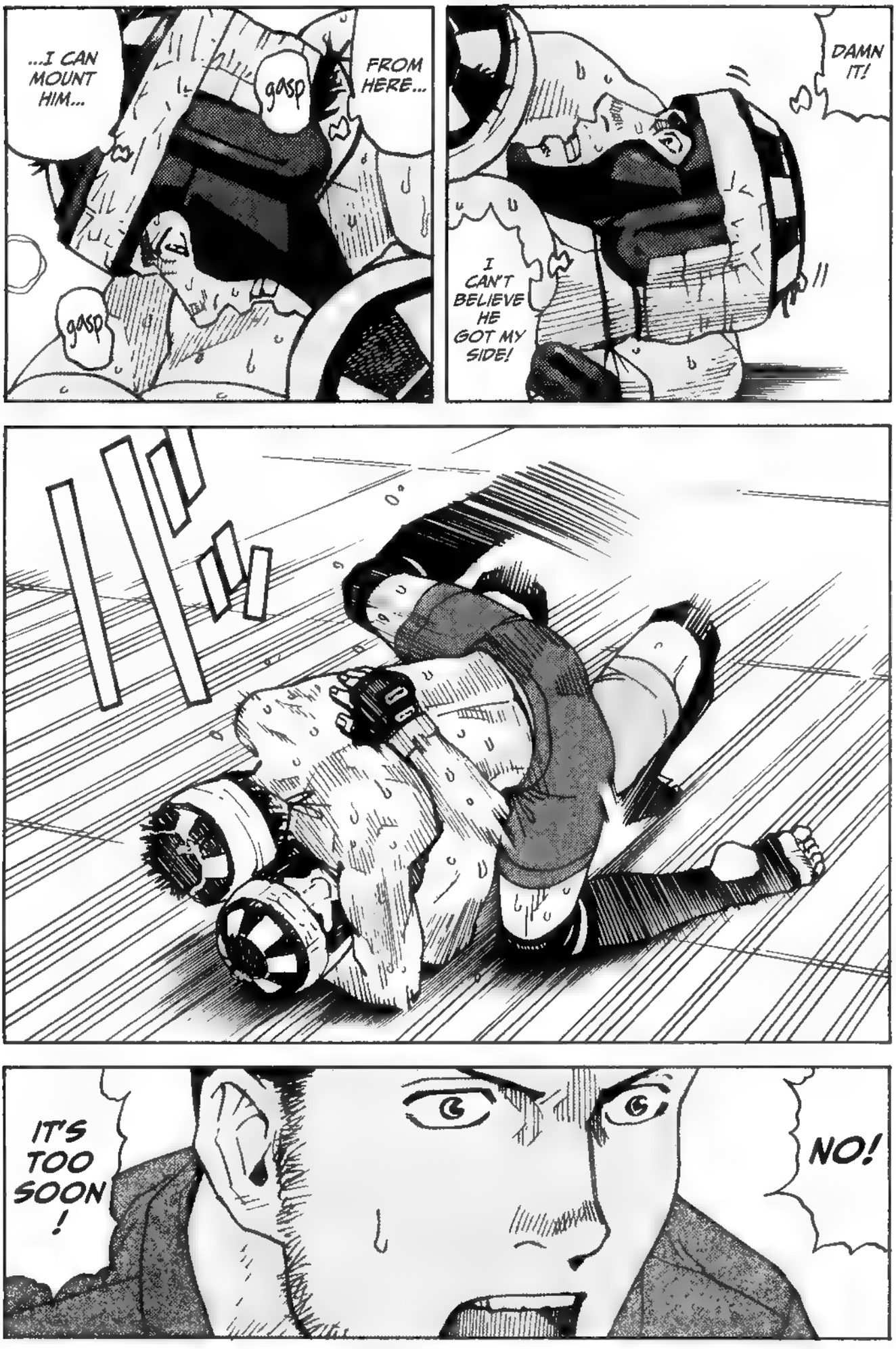
HE'S PULLING ME IN...
HE'S SO STRONG ...
WAH!
IN THAT CASE ...
...!
!

Ido

GOOD! KEEP HIM PINNED AND YOU'LL GET A POINT!
SIDE CON-TROL!
TOP!


MEGURU GOT ON HIS SIDE!
A STACKING GUARD PASS.
HE WAS ABLE TO USE HIS OPPO-NENT'S STRENGTH AGAINST HIM.


PIN HIM DOWN!
STAY COOL, MEGURU!


...I CAN MOUNT HIM...
gasp
FROM HERE...
gasp
DAMN IT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT MY SIDE!
IT'S TOO SOON!
NO!

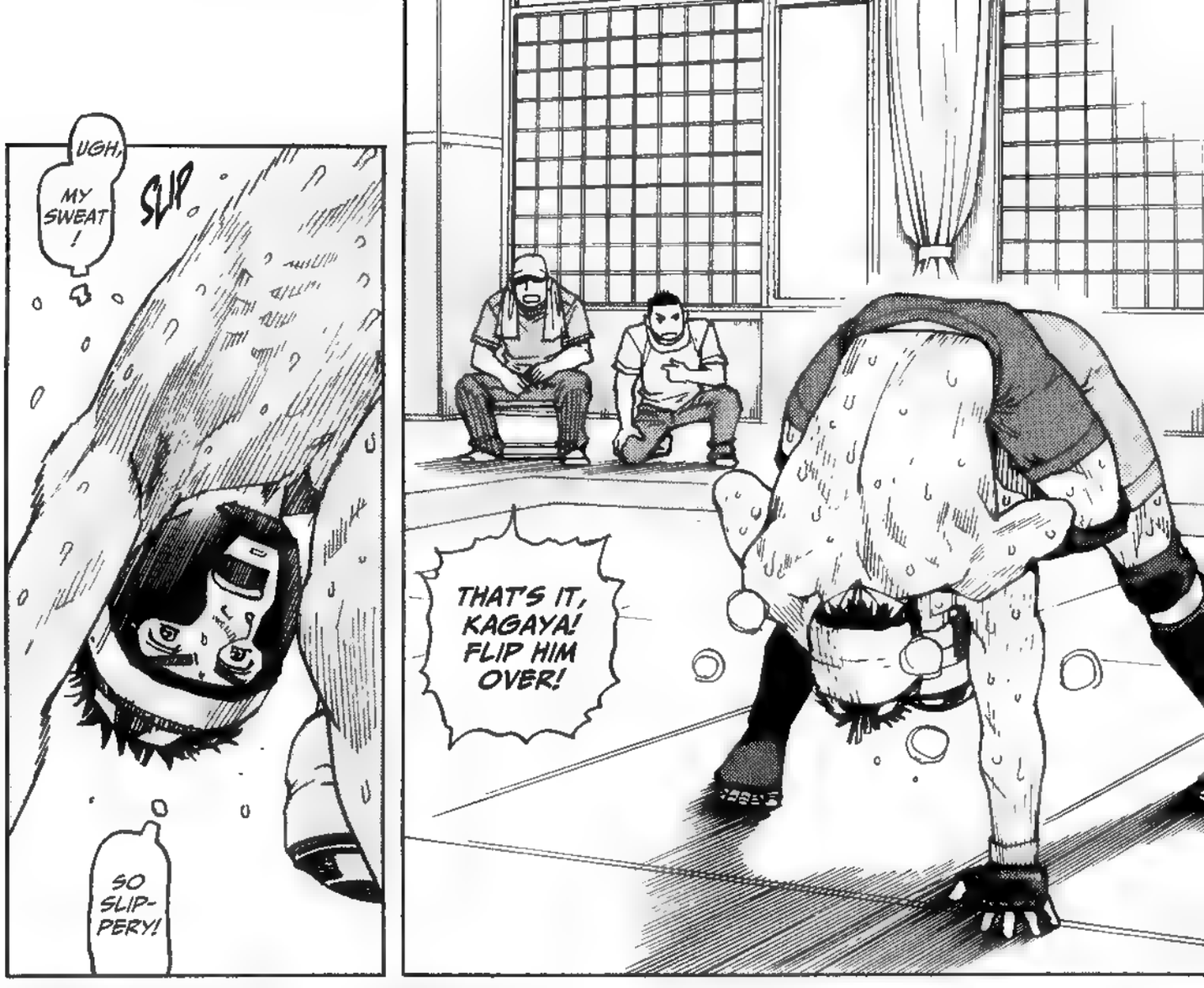
AH!
HE BRIDGED HIM!

BACK CON-TROL!

...
OUT-STANDING, MEGURU! NOW JUST KEEP AT IT!
YOU'VE STILL GOT TWO MINUTES!
...I THOUGHT HE HAD NO STAMINA?
...NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
THAT KID'S ACTUALLY GIVING KAGAYA A RUN FOR HIS MONEY!
TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT EXACTLY HIS STRENGTHS ARE, THOUGH...
IF HE'S STILL ABLE TO MOVE LIKE THIS...
...AFTER ALL THE FLAILING HE DID IN THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS...
...

...MAYBE...
...HE'S GOT UNLIMITED STAMINA?
ぱっ
...TO SOME HIGH SCHOOL RUNT!
...GIVE ME A FUCKIN' BREAK!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE...

Chapter 52 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 5)

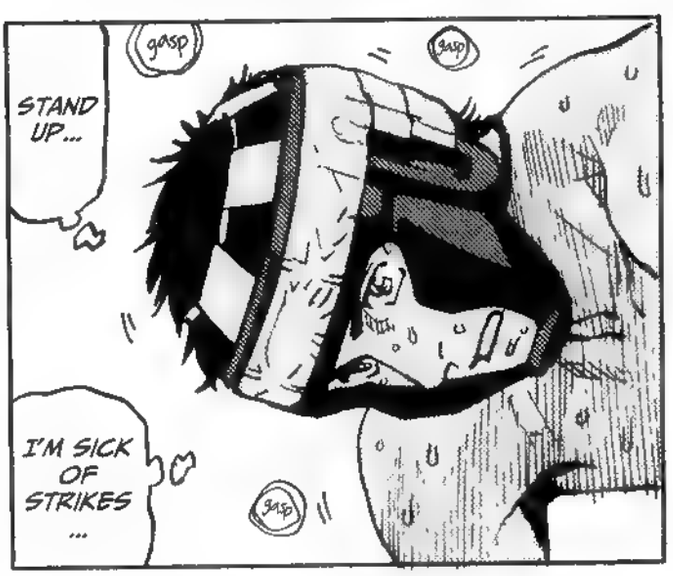

UGH, MY SWEAT!
SLIP
SO SLIP-PERY!
THAT'S IT, KAGAYA! FLIP HIM OVER!

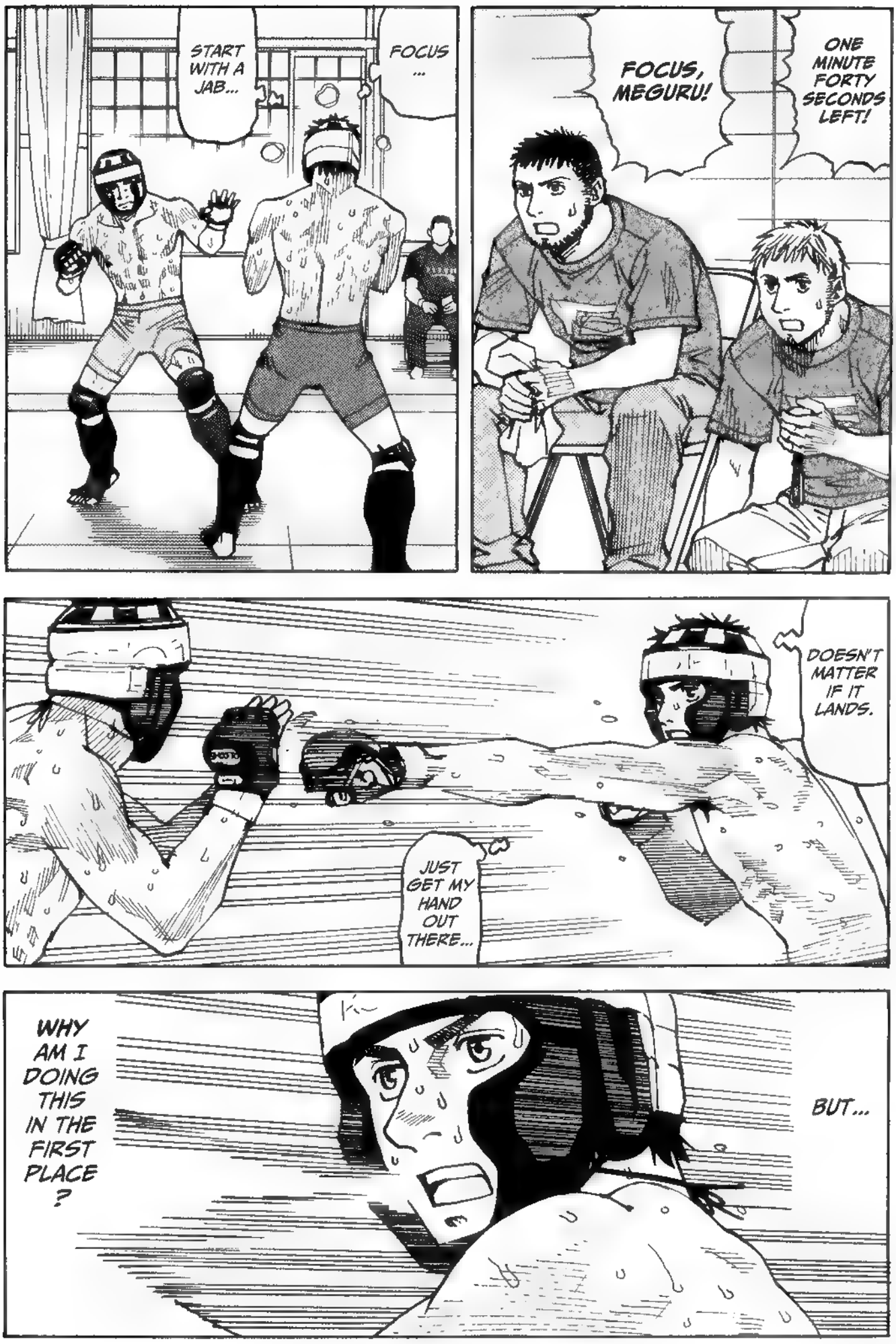
GROUND!
ドド

BREAK!
STAND UP!

FIGHT!
...BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN LAST...
...ROLLING AROUND ON THE GROUND, EITHER.

...


gasp
gasp
STAND UP...
I'M SICK OF STRIKES ...
gasp


START WITH A JAB...
FOCUS ...
FOCUS, MEGURU!
ONE MINUTE FORTY SECONDS LEFT!
DOESN'T MATTER IF IT LANDS.
JUST GET MY HAND OUT THERE...
WHY AM I DOING THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BUT...

...BUT I SAW THAT JAB COMING!
SORRY ...

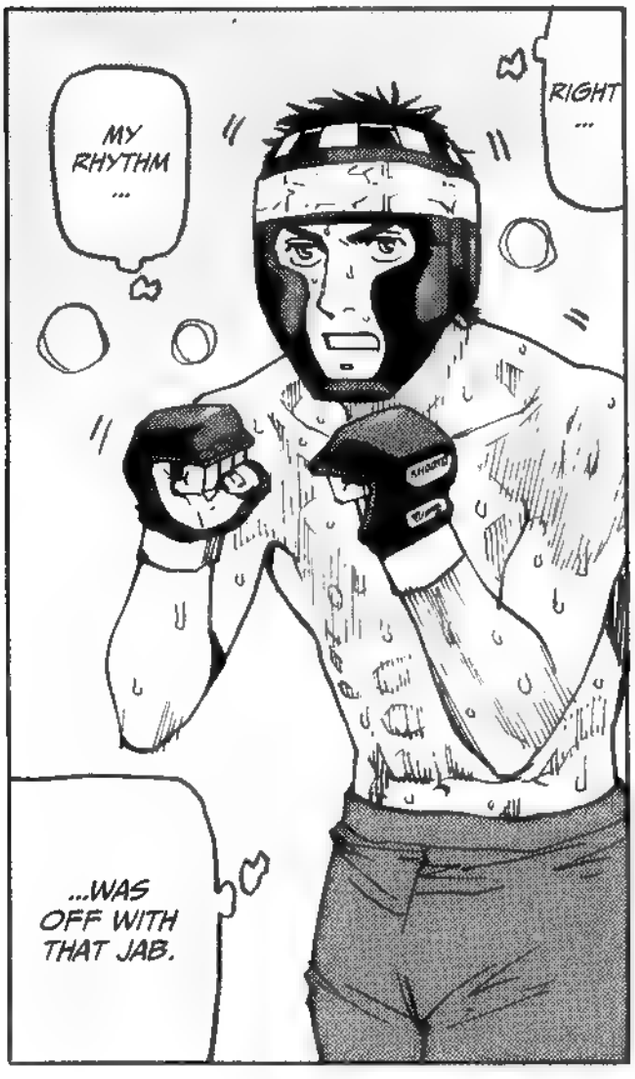
ナッ!!

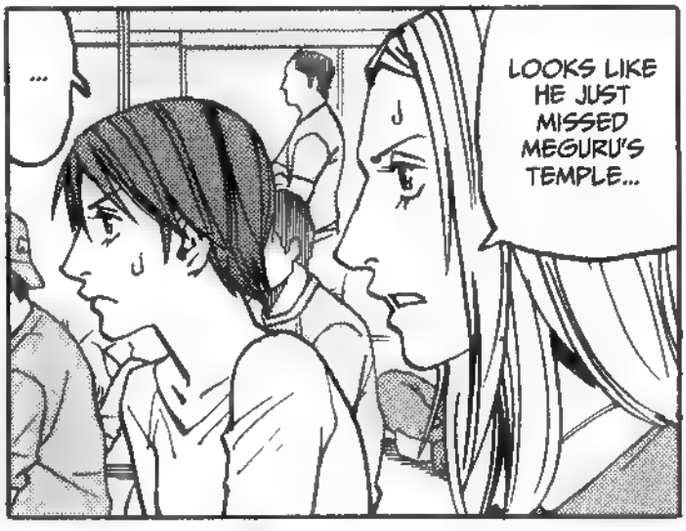
DOWN!
ONE!
A CROSS-COUNTER!
TWO!
NO ONE ELSE ON THE AMATEUR CIRCUIT...
...COULD MANAGE THAT PUNCH.

THREE !
FOUR !

HE GOT UP...
IS HE OK?
WALK FOR-WARD!
WHAT? I'M STILL GOING?
HUH?
...

FIGHT!
HE'S GONNA LET HIM FIGHT!
WHOA!


MY RHYTHM...
RIGHT...
...WAS OFF WITH THAT JAB.

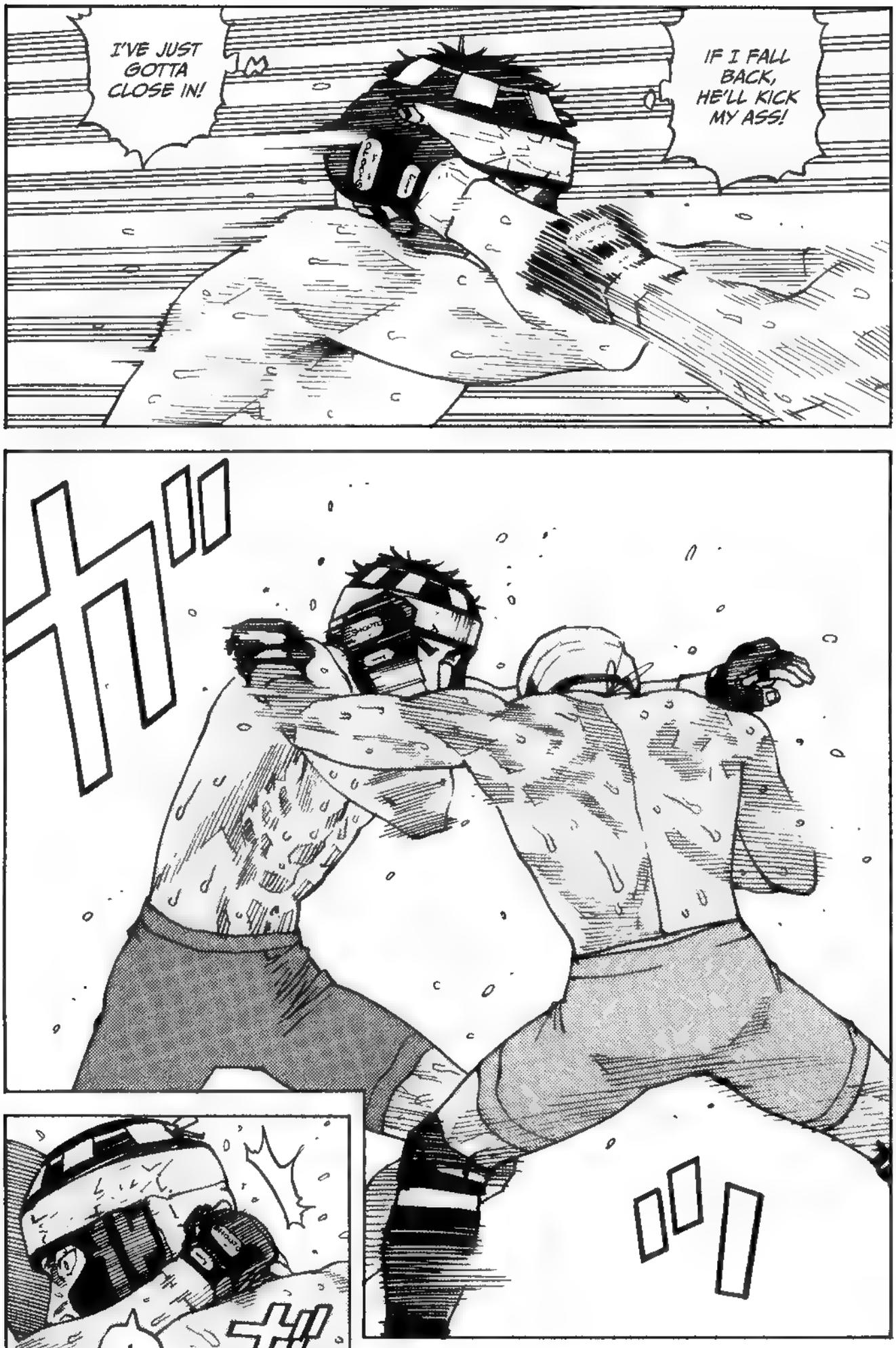

...
LOOKS LIKE HE JUST MISSED MEGURU'S TEMPLE...

...ON THE GROUND.
YOU SHOULDA JUST STAYED...

AND THERE WAS KAGAYA'S LEFT UPPERCUT, TOO.
IF HE GETS HIT ONE MORE TIME...
I KNOW.
IN ROUND ONE--
MEGURU WAS DROPPED BY A LEFT HOOK.
...I SHOULD THROW IN THE TOWEL.
...WHETHER HE GOES DOWN OR NOT...

...?!
WHOA!
HE'S GONE FROM A SNAPPING JAB TO A SOLID BODY STRAIGHT PUNCH...
HE'S CHANGED HIS RHYTHM?

I SHOULD HAVE AIMED LOWER FROM THE START...
EVEN IF HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD, I CAN STILL GET AT HIS BODY.
IF YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA MAKE ME BACK DOWN, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME...
HERE HE COMES!


I'VE JUST GOTTA CLOSE IN!
IF I FALL BACK, HE'LL KICK MY ASS!
!

HE TRIPPED ME...?
NO WAY!
GROUND !

THAT'S IT, MEGURU! USE THE CLINCH TO BRING HIM DOWN!
BREAK!
STAND UP!
...CLINCH FIGHTING TAKES A LONG TIME TO MASTER, YOU KNOW?!
BUT THE THING IS...
FIGHT!
YEAH... I GET WHAT HE'S GOING FOR...
MEGURU'S GONNA TRY TO BREAK THAT POWERHOUSE IN THE CLINCH...

AND HE'S...
...ONLY BEEN PRACTICING FOR SIX MONTHS?

AND NOW HERE WE ARE...
KAGAYA'S A GOOD WRESTLER ...
...BUT NOT SO MUCH WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING IN THE CLINCH LIKE THIS...
ALL I NEED TO BREAK OUT OF YOUR LITTLE CLINCH...
...IS RAW STRENGTH!

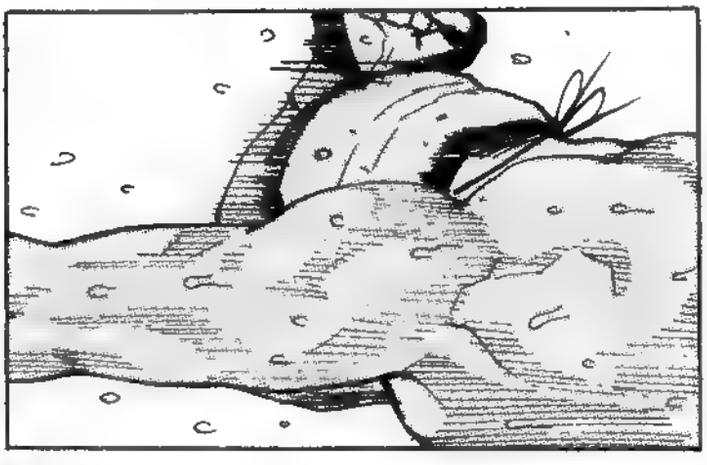
!
SHIT!
GET UNDER HIS RIGHT SIDE, MEGURU!
YES! GOT THE DOUBLE UNDER-HOOKS!
WHAT ?
KAGA-YA!
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE WAY!

Chapter 53 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 6)

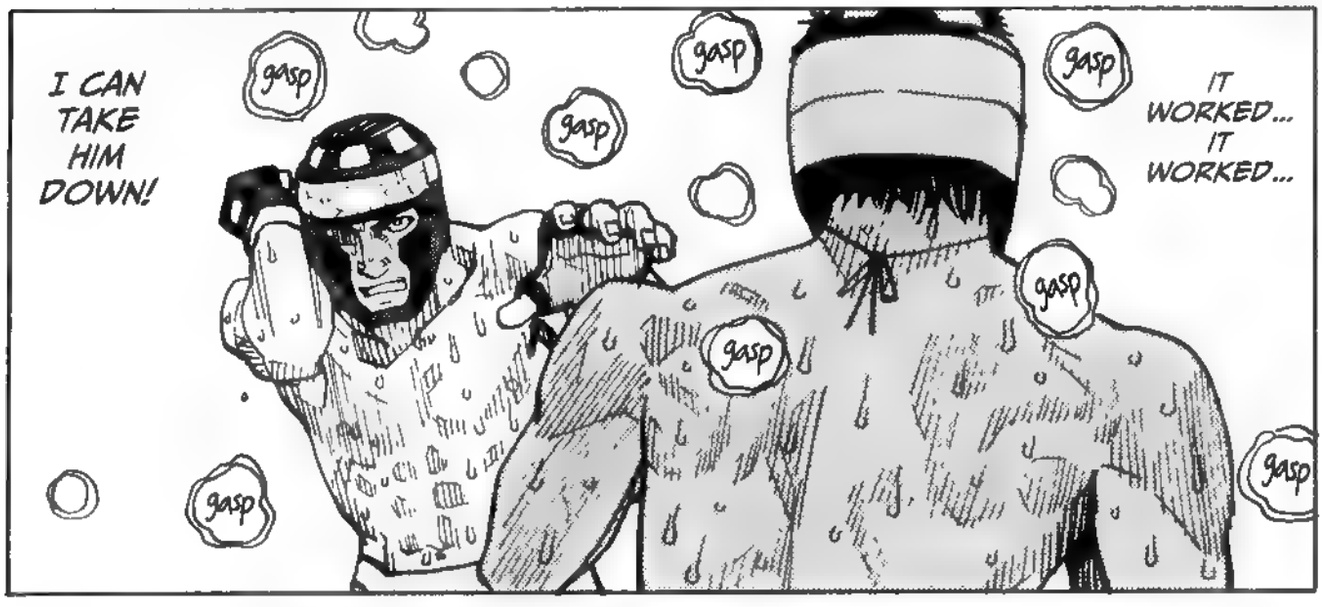
CAN I GET HIM IN THE FACE AGAIN...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...OR NOT ?!

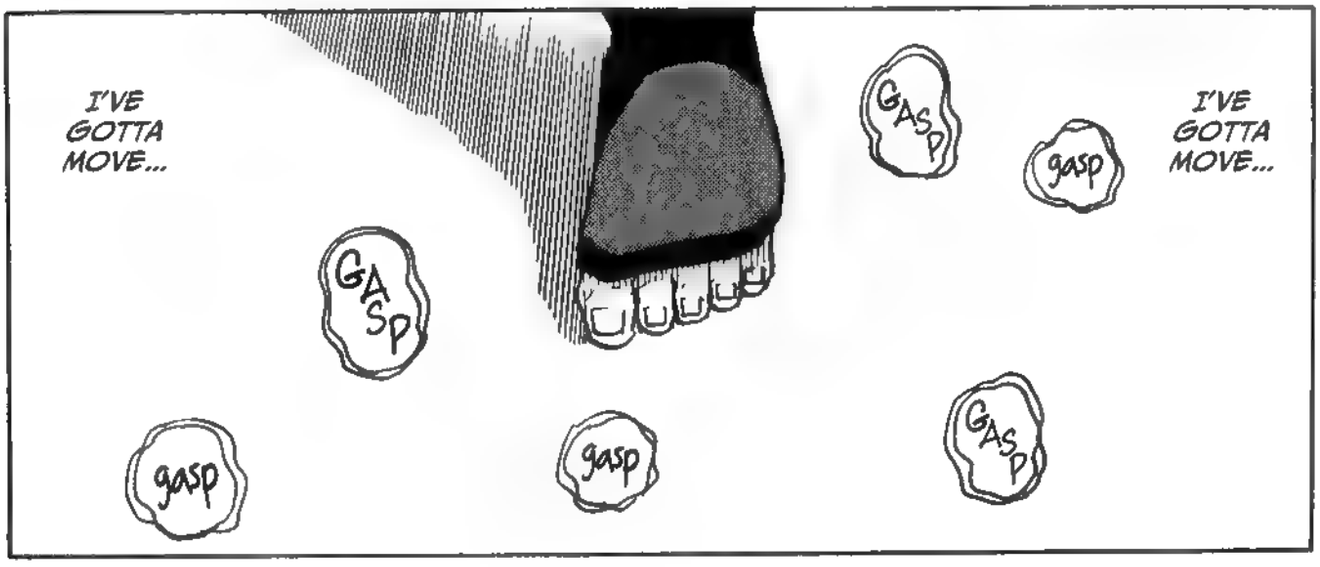
Ito
?

YOU GOT HIM, MEGURU!
THAT DID IT!



GO GET HIM! FINISH THIS!
ONE MINUTE LEFT!


I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN!
IT WORKED... IT WORKED...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp


I'VE GOTTA MOVE...
I'VE GOTTA MOVE...
GASP
GASP
GASP
gasp
gasp
gasp

gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...CAN'T I TAKE A STEP FORWARD ?!
SO WHY...

IGNORE HIS FEINTS!
GET IN THERE!
JOLT
HIS GAS TANK IS EMPTY, YOU MEAN?
HIS STAMINA MUST'VE TOTALLY GIVEN OUT.
THIS IS MEGURU'S CHANCE, BUT HE'S NOT MOVING...
SHOOTO since 1985
...SO HE KNOWS HOW TO GIVE HIMSELF TIME TO RECOVER VIA FEINTS.
KAGAYA'S GOT A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE...

HE'S ...
... SCARED!
ビル
ゴル
MEGURU! YOU DON'T NEED KICKS!
JUST GET IN THERE WITH A ONE-TWO PUNCH!
BUT HE'S OBVIOUSLY COM-PLETELY GASSED...
THIS IS HIS CHANCE ...
TAKE IT EASY ON YOUR INJURED SIDE, THERE... SHEESH!
OW-OW-OW!

...
I'M AMAZED HE'S MANAGED TO LAST THIS LONG...
THAT KID GOT IN AS A REPLACE-MENT, DIDN'T HE?
THAT GAVE ME TIME...
THANK GOD HE GASSED OUT...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...TO RECHARGE!

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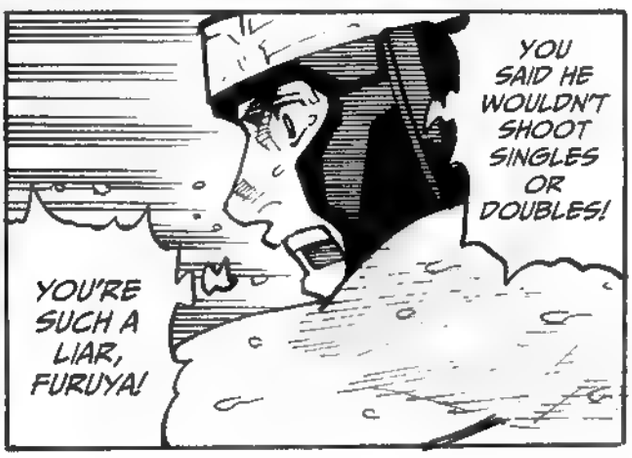
A DOUBLE LEG TAKE-DOWN ?!


YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T SHOOT SINGLES OR DOUBLES!
YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR, FURUYA!

...BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE CLINCH.
HE DOUBLE-LEGGED MEGURU...
!

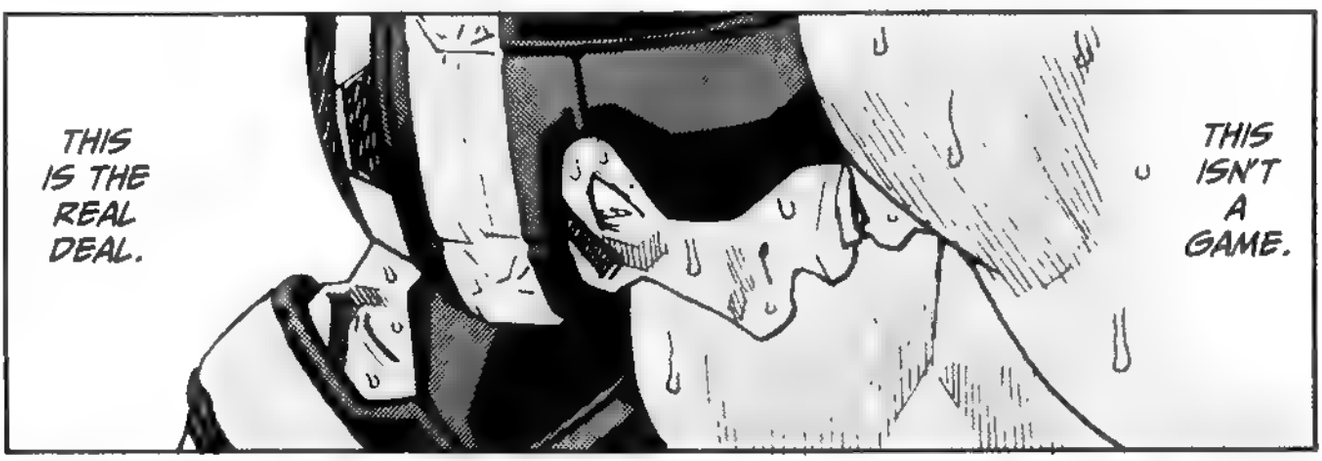
IT WAS LAST YEAR...

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...
... BETWEEN YOU AND THAT GUY KAGAYA?

IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE A COMPETITION, TOO...
HE INJURED ANOTHER GIRL DURING TRAINING.
HE ALWAYS SAID...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
HMM ...
BUT...
...AND HE TRANS-FERRED TO ANOTHER GYM.
THINGS CHANGED AFTER THAT...
SO BASICALLY YOU'RE SAYING HE'S THE SORT OF GUY WHO DOESN'T GO EASY ON A GIRL, RIGHT?
THIS IS MMA. INJURIES COME WITH THE TERRI-TORY...

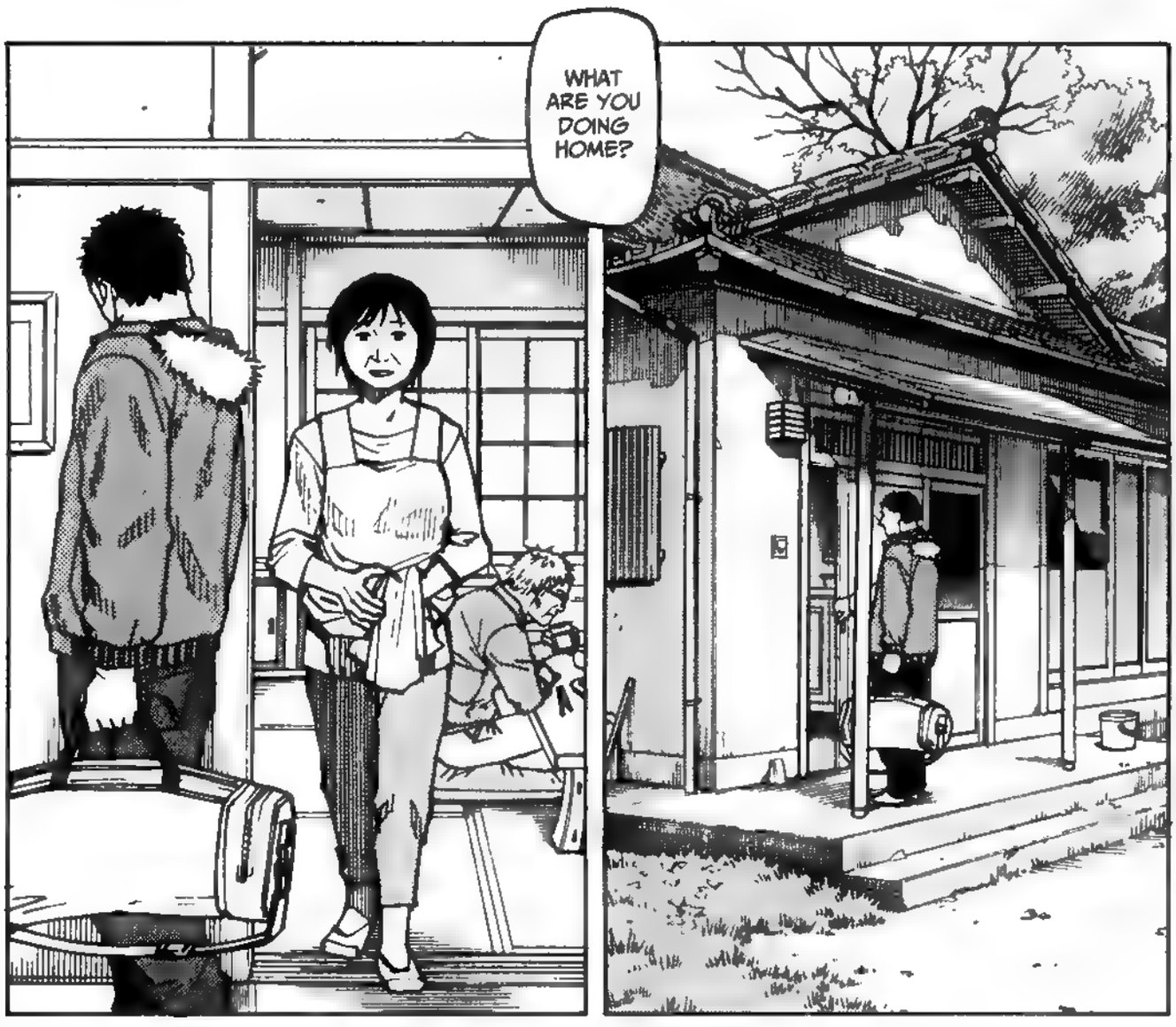
BUT PRACTICE ISN'T A MATCH.
I KNOW, BUT FOR HIM THERE'S NO DIFFER-ENCE...
"IF THEY DON'T TAP DURING A MATCH...
"...I'LL BREAK 'EM!"
...

HALF GUARD !


THIS IS THE REAL DEAL.
THIS ISN'T A GAME.

...INTO OBSCURITY.
AND I DON'T WANT TO JUST SLIDE...

NOT FROM "HERE."
I CAN'T SEE "THE FUTURE."


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME?

HOW COULD YOU JUST *DROP OUT?*
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW *HARD* WE WORKED TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO ?

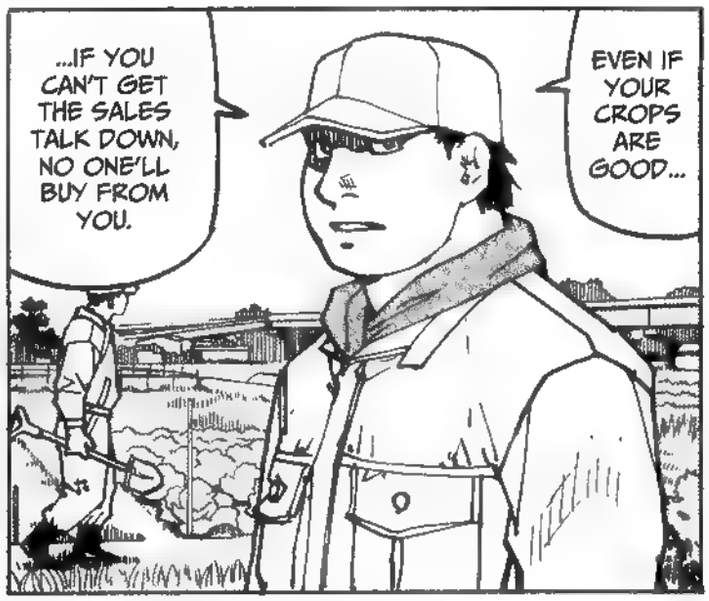
YOU GUYS WORKED SO HARD TO GROW THIS...
...SO HOW COME YOU'RE SENDING HALF OF IT TO THE CO-OP?

IT'S JUST ONE...
...OF OUR OBLIGA-TIONS.

HEY, HIGUCHI.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, KAGAYA.

HAHA ...
THEY SELL DIRECTLY TO HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IN TOKYO AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
I'VE HEARD SOME FARMERS REALLY MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
THAT ONLY WORKS IF YOU'RE A GOOD SALESMAN.

BUT IN TOKYO THEY ALL WANT STUFF THAT'S PESTICIDE-FREE.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT ANYONE BUT THEM-SELVES.


...IF YOU CAN'T GET THE SALES TALK DOWN, NO ONE'LL BUY FROM YOU.
EVEN IF YOUR CROPS ARE GOOD...

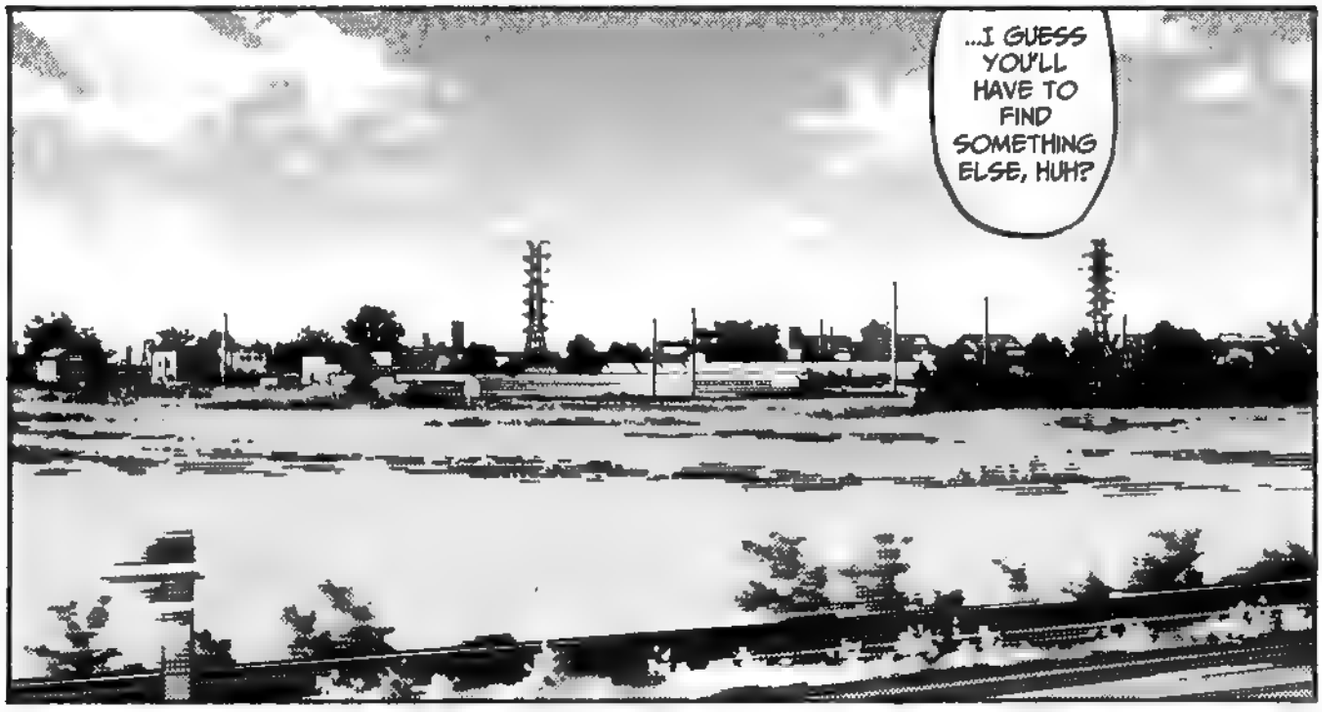
AND WHEN YOU GO ORGANIC LIKE THIS...
...YOU GET OTHER LOCAL FARMERS COMPLAINING THAT YOUR CROPS WILL PASS ON PARASITES AND DISEASES.

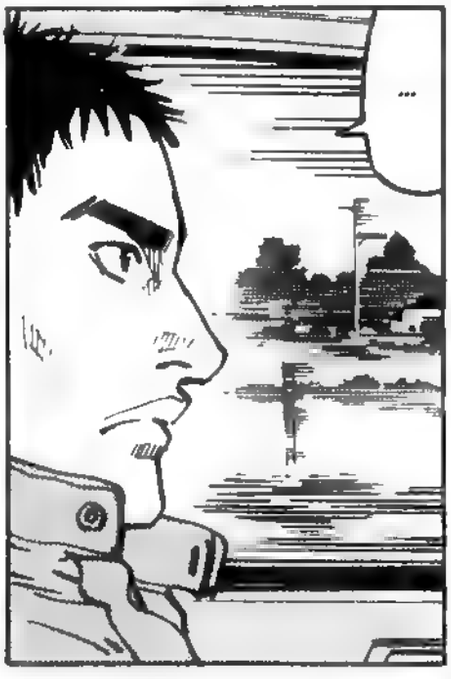
WE'RE NOT...
... FARMERS ANY-MORE.

I KNOW YOU QUIT COLLEGE ...
...BUT ARE YOU GONNA TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS?

MOST OF OUR LAND...
...IS NOW RESIDENTIAL AND COM-MERCIAL DISTRICTS.
MY OLD MAN WORKS FIVE DAYS A WEEK AT A FACTORY...

OH YEAH?
THEN...



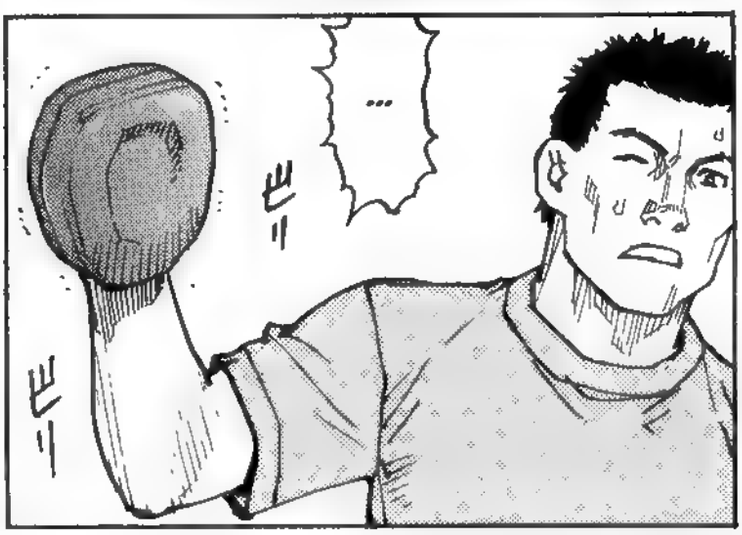


*A JUDO TOURNAMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
THERE'S NO POINT...
...IN DWELLING ON WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, IS THERE?

Chapter 54 | Fighting Man

WHAT ABOUT STRIKING?
NO EXPERI-ENCE THERE.
YOU DID JUDO?
YEAH.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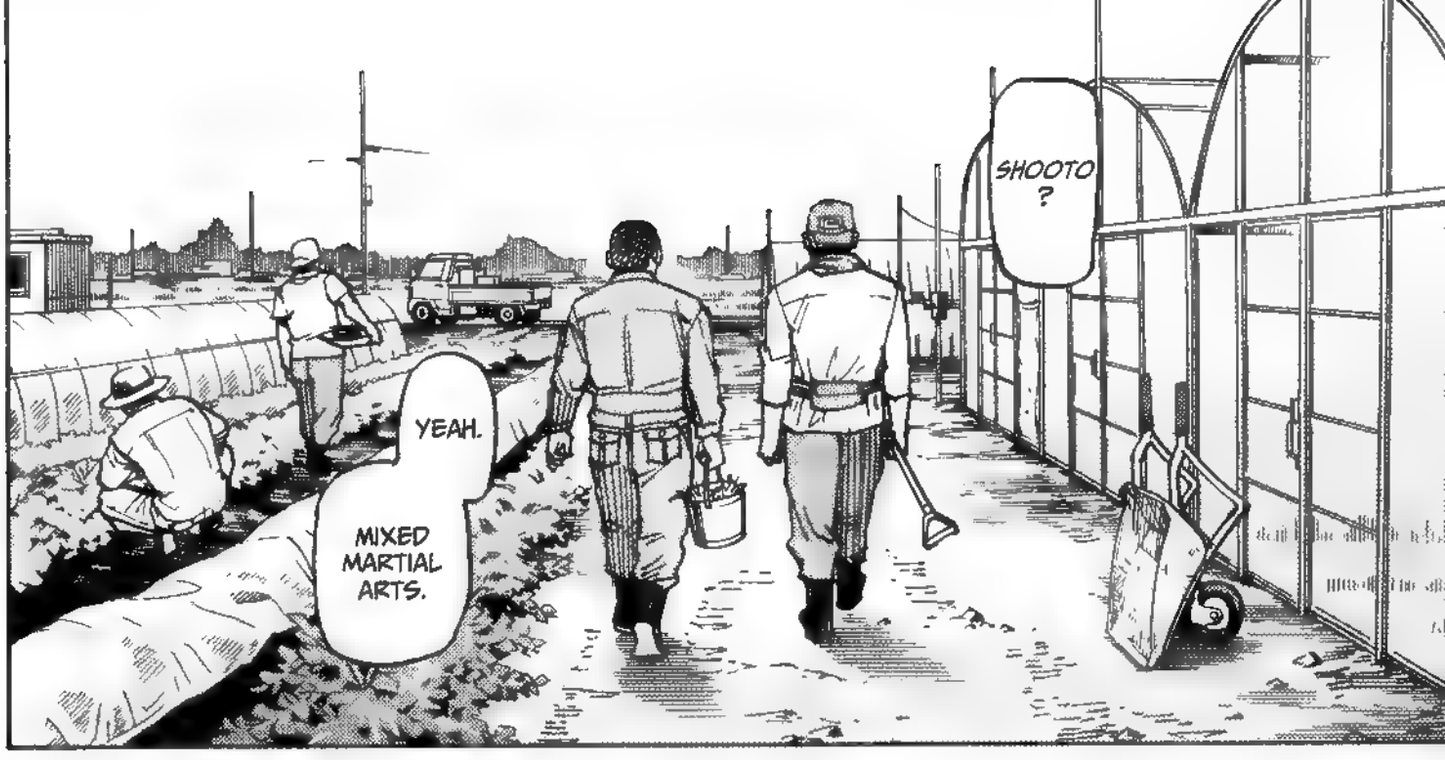
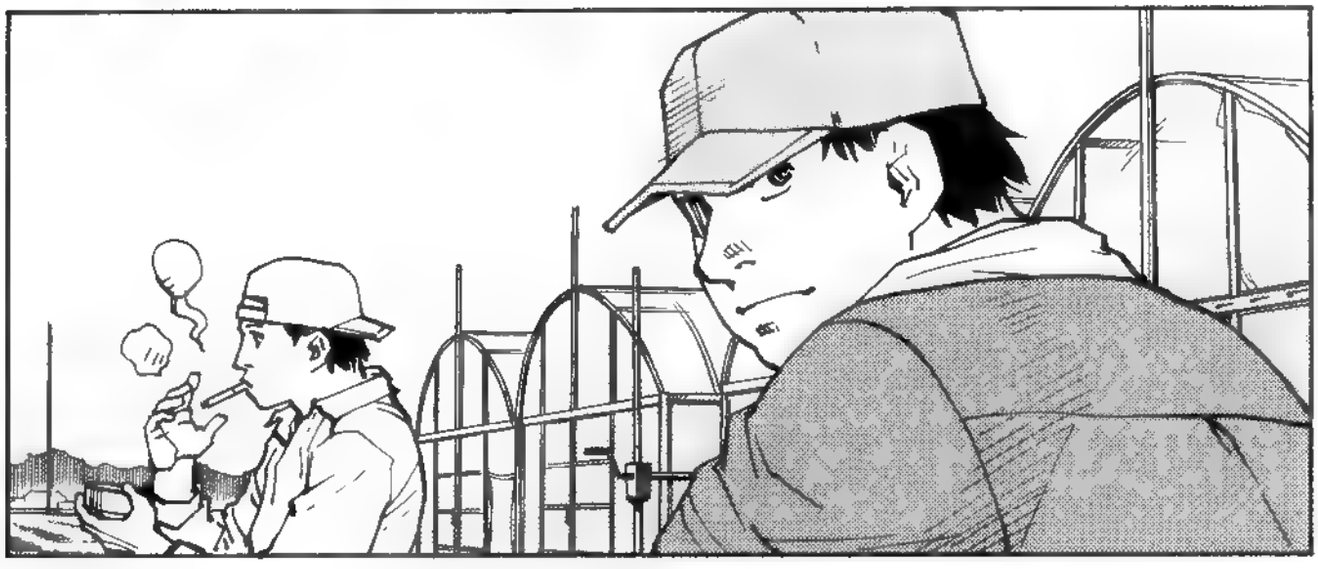

SHOOTO ?
YEAH.
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.

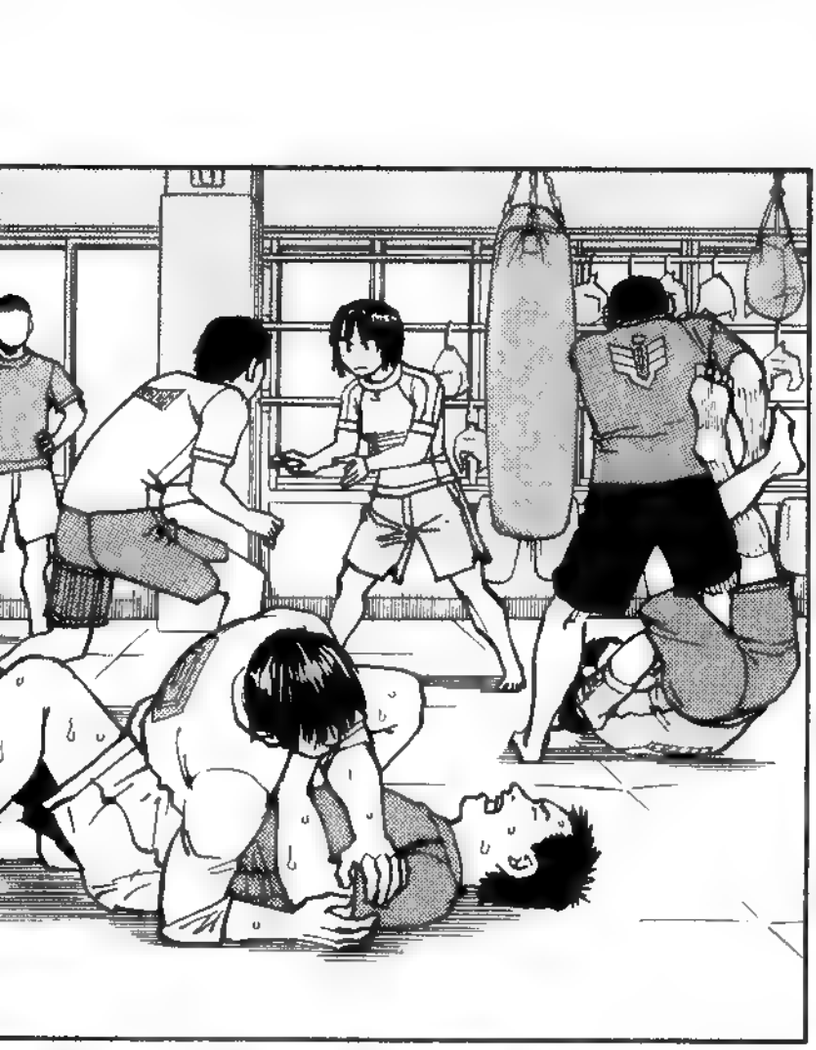
NAH,
I'M A SOCCER MAN.
YOU EVER DONE JIU-JITSU, CARLOS?
THEY CALL IT *VALE TUDO* IN PORTUGUESE, RIGHT?

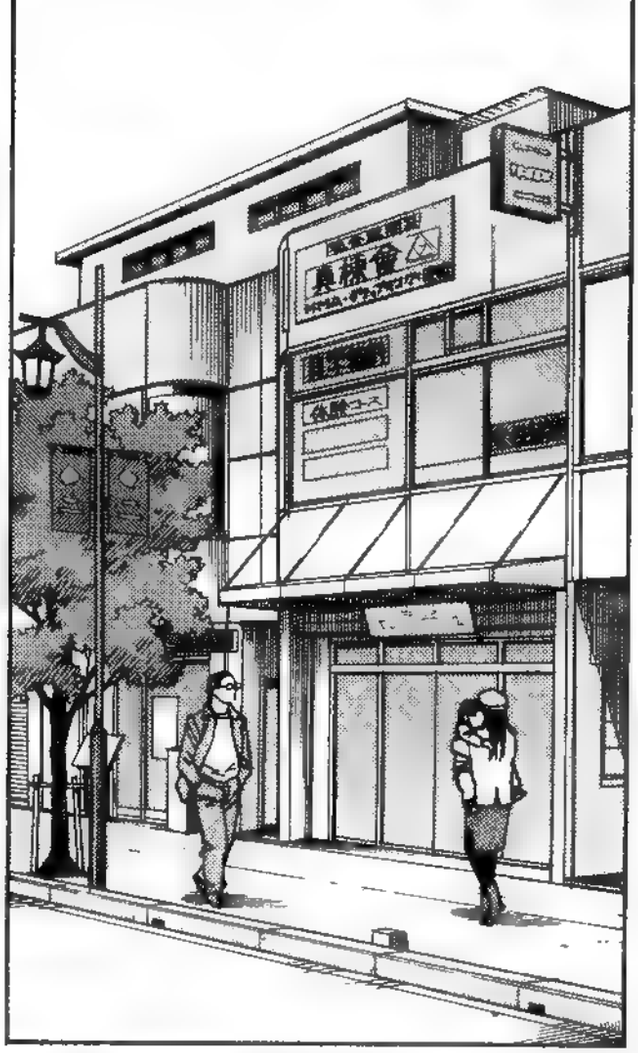


I THOUGHT IT WAS SAKA-HASHI?
LIVING WITH SOME GUY IN AKABANE.
WHAT-EVER!
BY THE WAY, KAGAYA ...
HOW'S YOUR SISTER DOIN'?
WELL, IT AIN'T LIKE SHE'S COMING BACK.
DUDE, DON'T YOU EVEN TALK TO HER ANYMORE ?
POINT IS, I HAVEN'T HEARD ZILCH FROM HER SINCE SHE MOVED TO TOKYO.
STILL HARD-HEADED AS ALWAYS, I SEE.
Have some ginjoko nuts!
OK, OK!
IT WAS HER OWN DAMN FAULT FOR—
SORRY FOR BRINGING IT UP!
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE, Y'KNOW ...
SPEAKING OF GIRLS...
HOW'D THINGS GO WITH HER?

HOW NICE OF YOU, HIGUCHI!
SHE WAS A GOOD CATCH, THOUGH.
...
BUT THIS GUY'S ALL-OR-NOTHING ATTITUDE WOULD SEND *ME* RUNNING, TOO!
YEAH, YOU'VE GOTTA DO WHAT'S BEST FOR *YOURSELF*.
BUT YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO THAT FOREVER!
MAYBE GET OUT AND MEET SOMEONE NEW?

ANYWAY ...
WHO'D WANT TO COME *HERE?*

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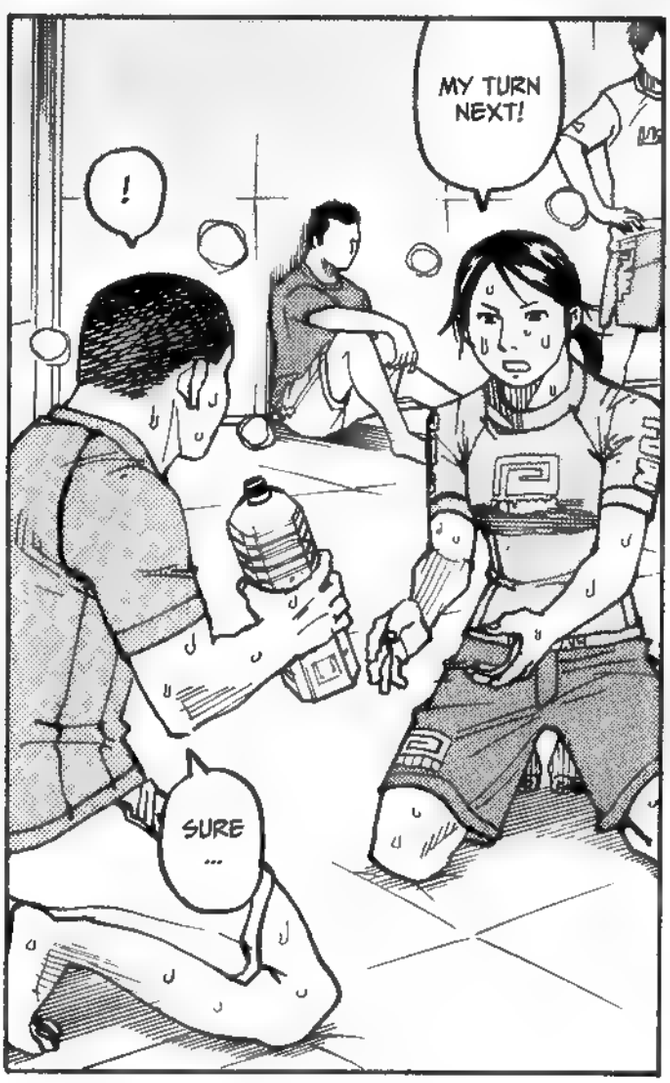
THINK IT THROUGH!
DON'T OVERPOWER HER, PLEASE!
I KNOW...


MY TURN NEXT!
!
SURE...

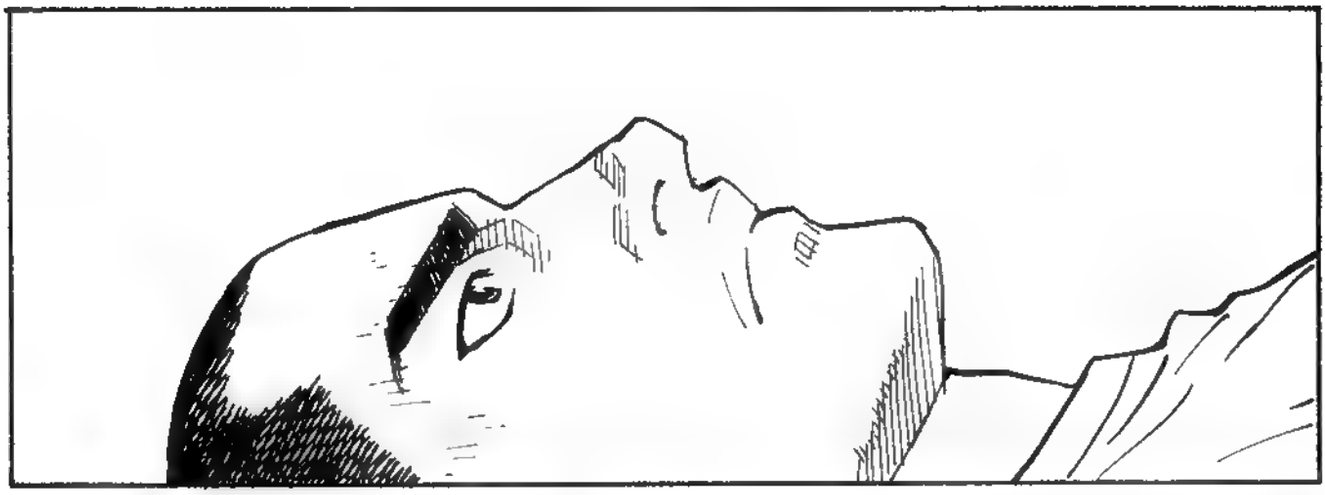
YEAH, GET YOUR RIGHT ARM IN THERE!

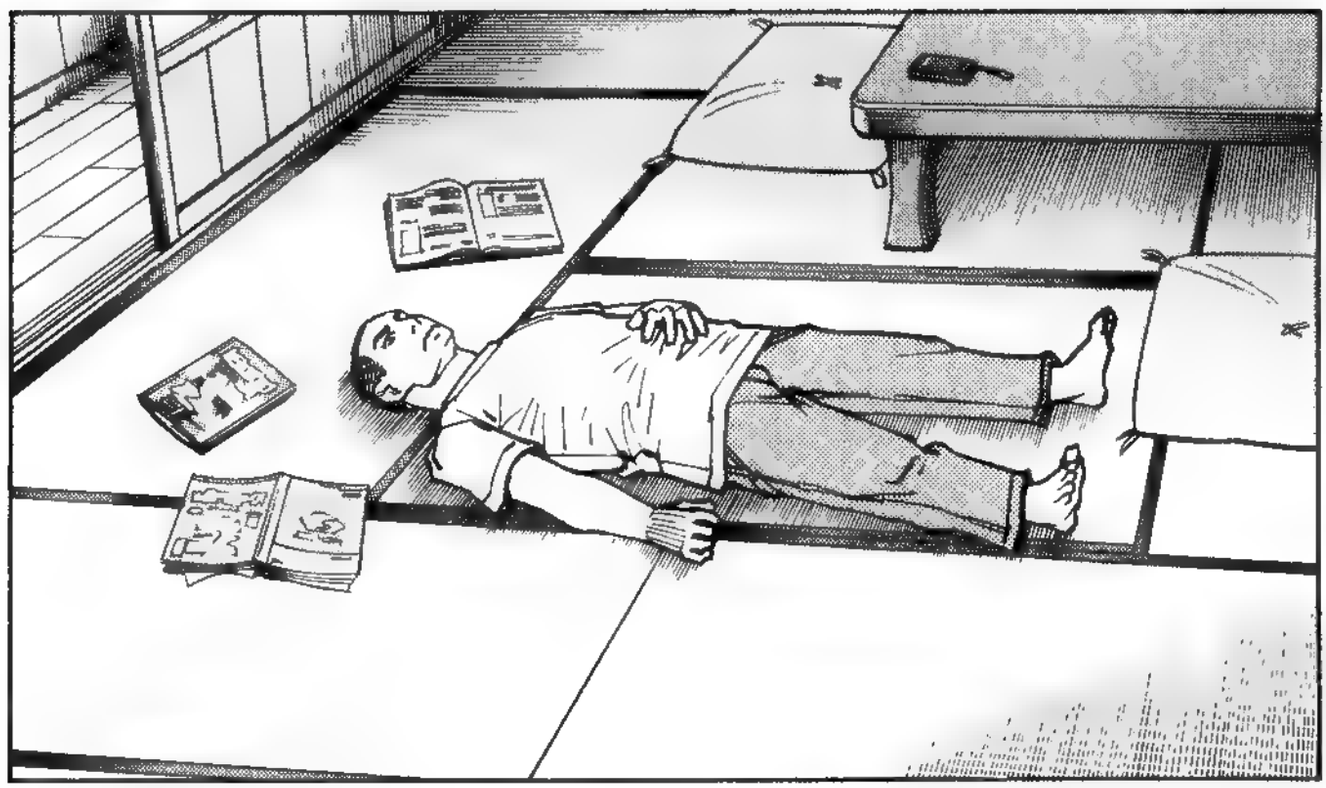
ERI! HE'S GONNA DO A TRIANGLE CHOKE!

AH!

WHAP
!

!
!
CRACK
!





...OFF WORK TODAY? NOT GOING TO THE GYM, EITHER?
ARE YOU ...

THOSE GUYS ARE TROUBLE-MAKERS.
...YOU'VE BEEN HELPING OUT THE HIGUCHIS' SON WITH HIS FARM.
I HEARD ...
STAY AWAY FROM THEM.

HIGUCHI'S GIVING FARMING ALL HE'S GOT.
...AND THEN YOU MAKE A TIDY PROFIT TURNING WHAT USED TO BE OUR FAMILY LAND INTO SHOPS AND APARTMENTS.
YOU TAKE SUBSIDIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN RETURN FOR DOING WHATEVER THEY SAY...
YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT *YOU*, DAD?
WHAT ...

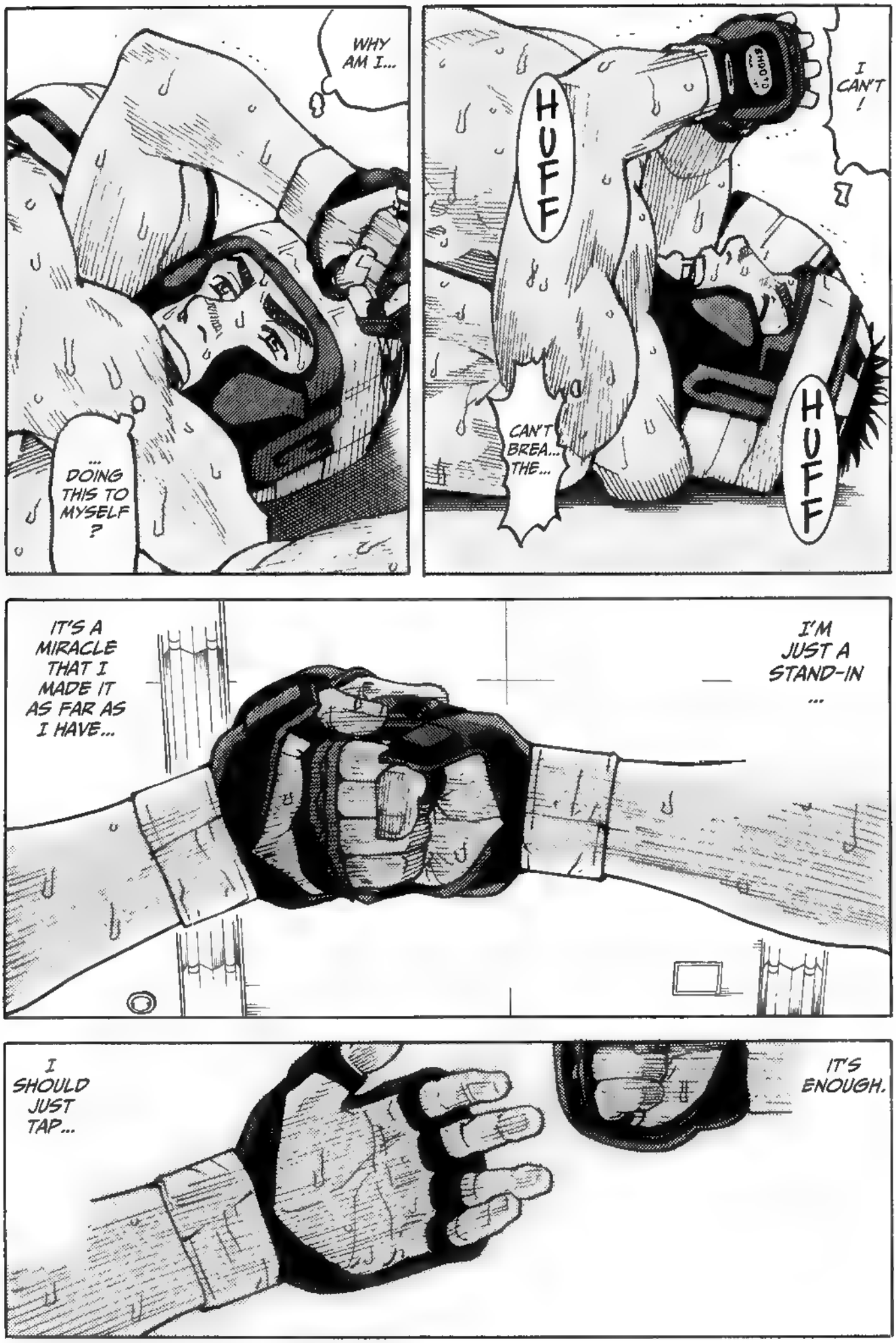
YOU CALL YOURSELF A FARMER ...
...BUT YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON FARMING.
TAKE-SHI...
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
...HOW MUCH IT *COST* TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO?

MEGURU, HE'S TRYING TO LOCK AN ARM TRIANGLE!
KEEP YOUR ARMS IN TIGHT AND USE YOUR ELBOW!

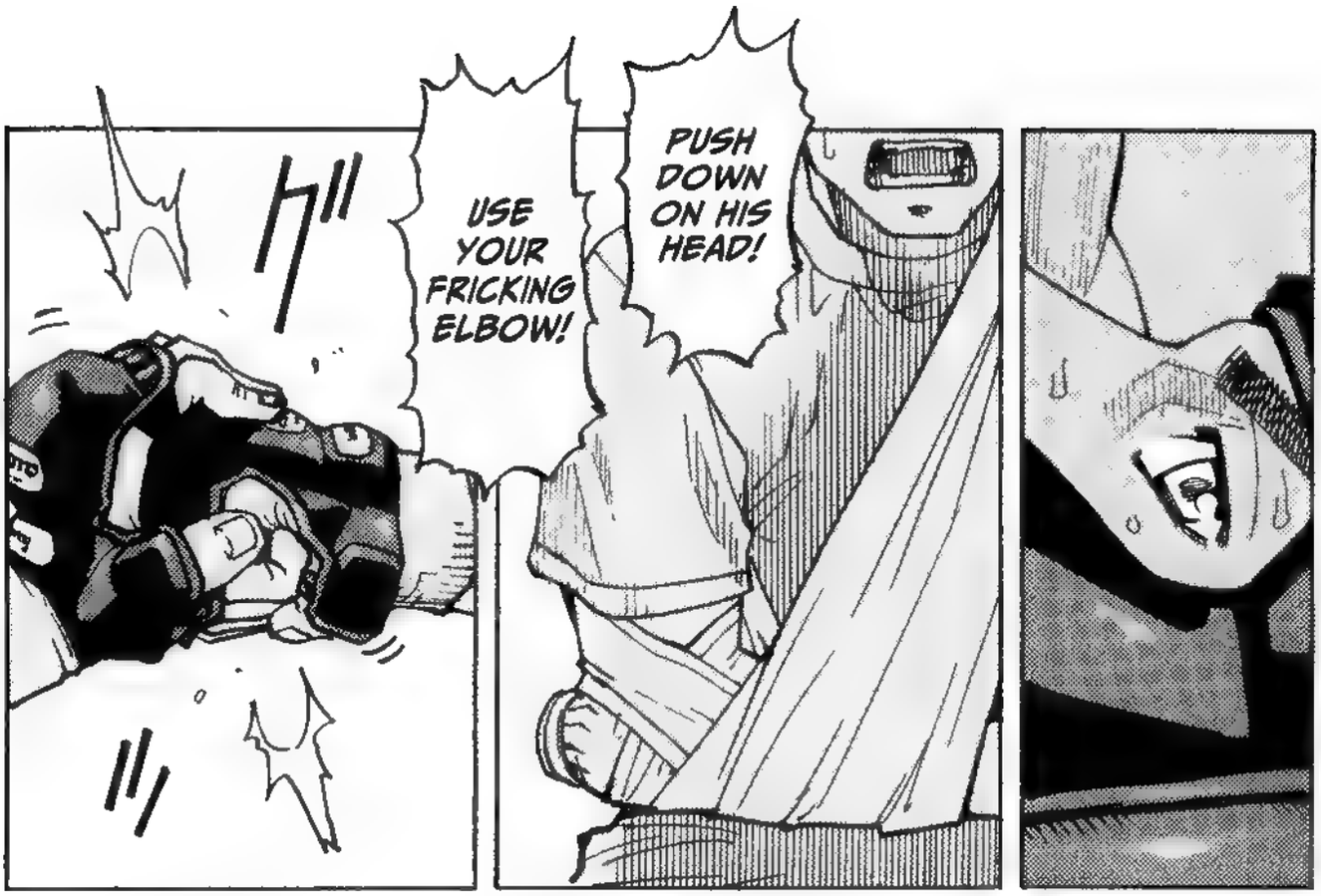
WAY TO GO, KAGAYA! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT!
THUD

...NOT LIKE MY FATHER!
I'M ...

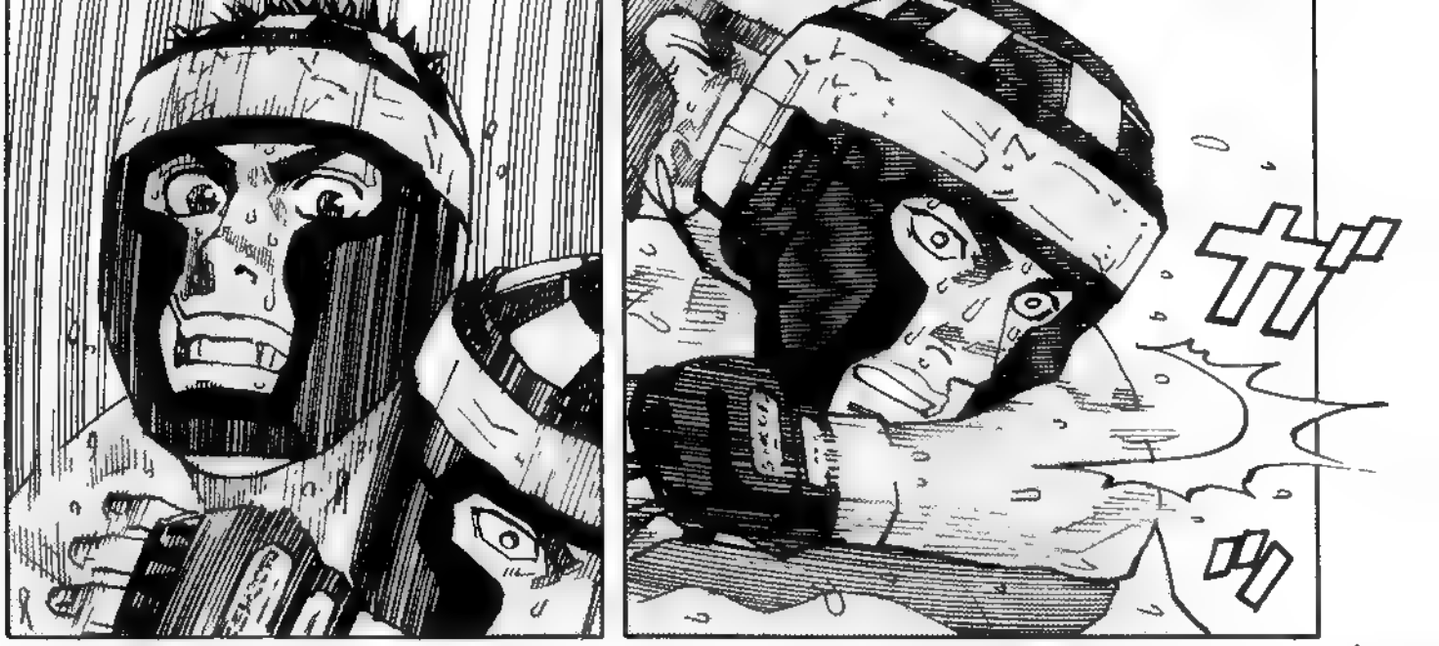
I WILL FIGHT!
ガッ
...
SIDE CON-TROL!
CATCH!
GET YOUR LEGS UP AND TWIST TO YOUR RIGHT!
MEGURU, YOU'VE GOTTA CREATE SOME SPACE!


WHY AM I...
... DOING THIS TO MYSELF ?
HUFF
I CAN'T !
CAN'T BREA... THE...
HUFF
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT I MADE IT AS FAR AS I HAVE...
I'M JUST A STAND-IN ...
I SHOULD JUST TAP...
IT'S ENOUGH.

YOU IDIOT!
!
DON'T GIVE UP NOW!
YOU'VE ESCAPED AN ARM TRIANGLE A MILLION TIMES WITH ME!
SHOW HIM YOUR GUTS, GOD-DAMNIT!


USE YOUR FRICKING ELBOW!
PUSH DOWN ON HIS HEAD!

HRAH
!
!!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叫

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DON'T STRAIN YOUR INJURED SIDE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE TOTALLY WIPED OUT, YOU CAN STILL REAR-NAKED CHOKE HIM, CAN'T YOU?!
HOOK HIS LEG!
HIS LEG!

HNGG
...
BREAK
!
TIME
OUT!

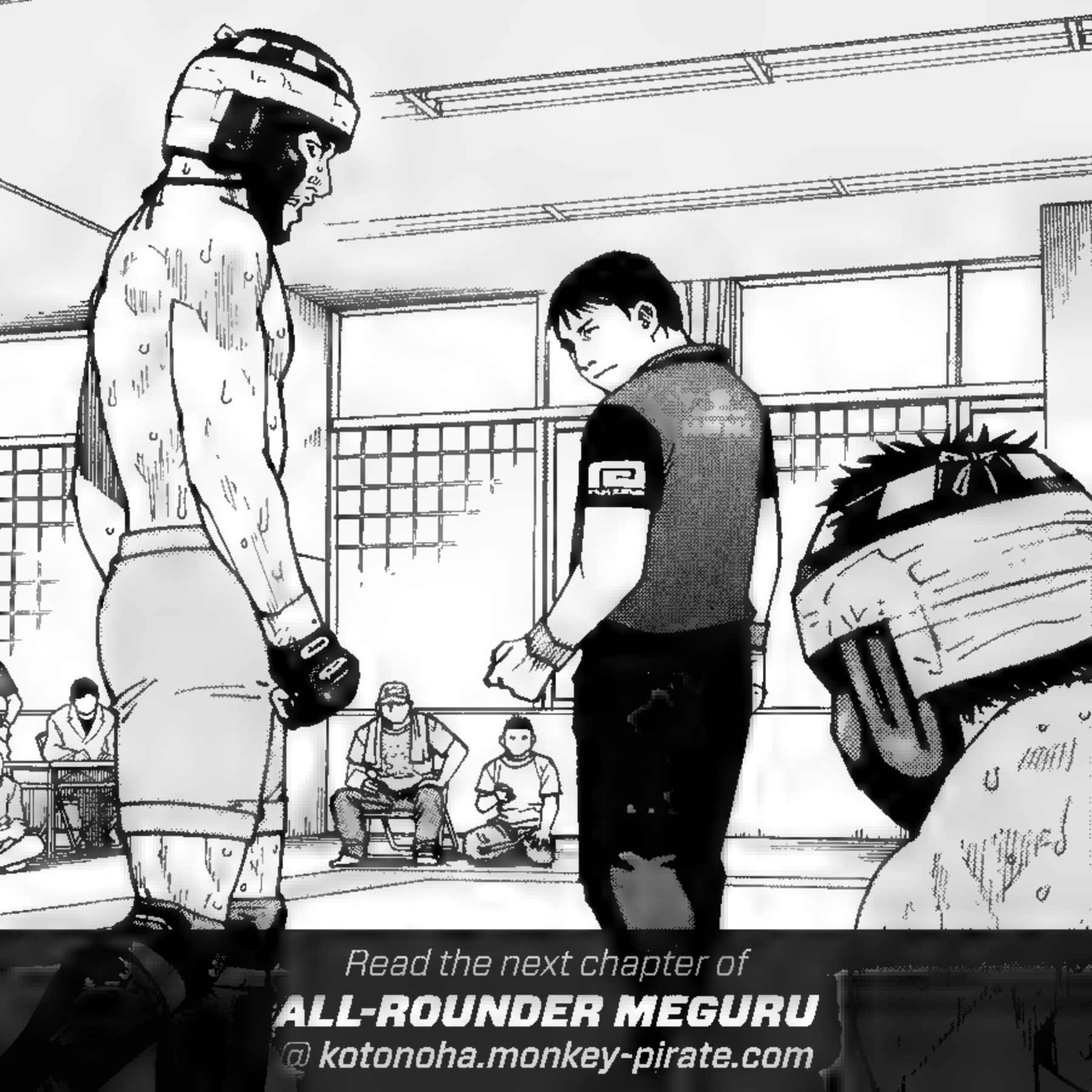
...
BLUE !
MINUS ONE POINT FOR GOING OUT OF BOUNDS!

CALM DOWN, KAGAYA !
YOU'RE WINNING !

HOW MUCH TIME'S LEFT?
24 SECONDS ...

OUT OF BOUNDS ?
LIKE I WAS RUNNING AWAY?
ME?!
NO WAY!

GET IN THE RING!
RESUME THE FIGHT IN STANDING POSITION!
...THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT HE CAN DO...
AT THIS POINT...
gasp
LOOK AT HIM ...!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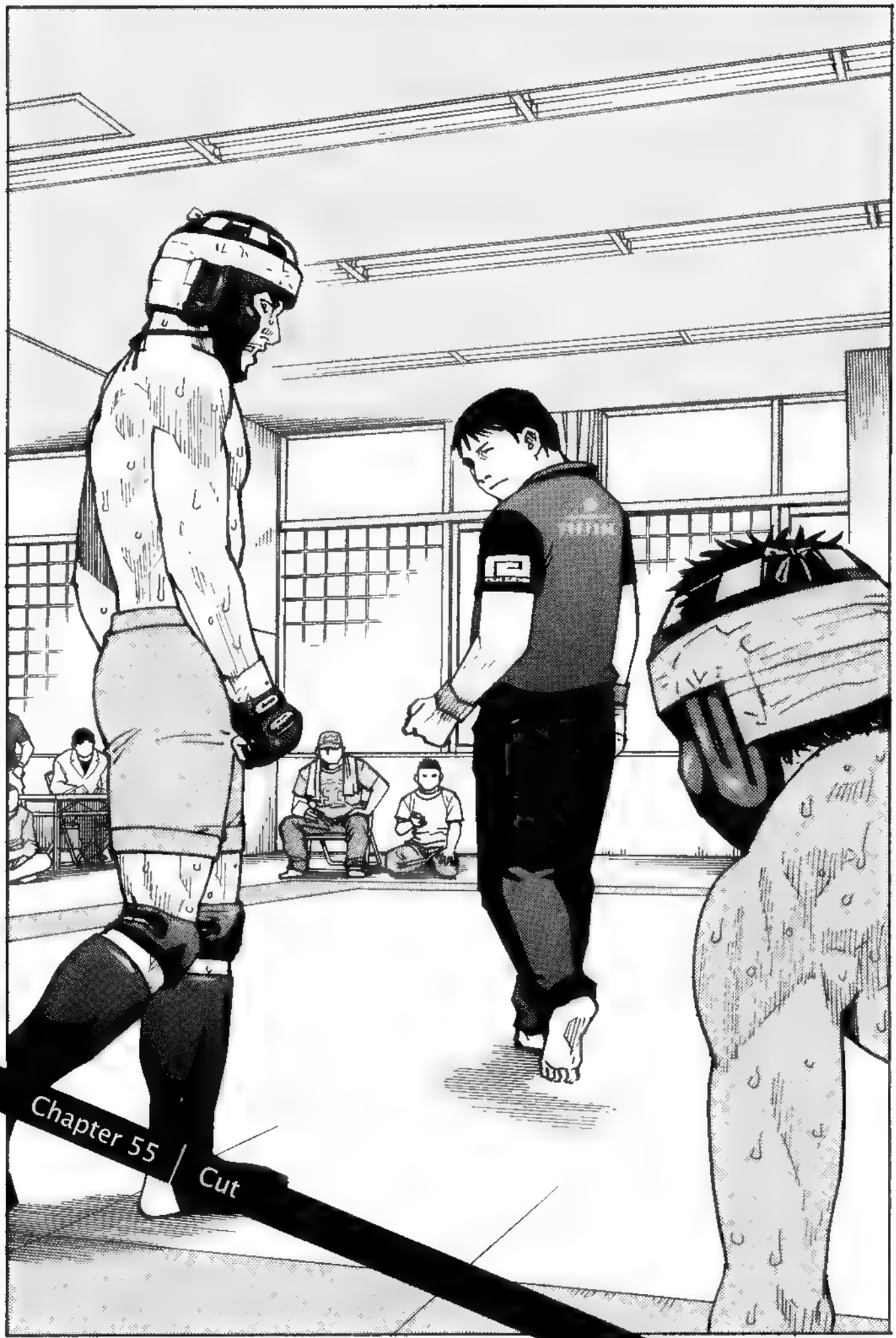
ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

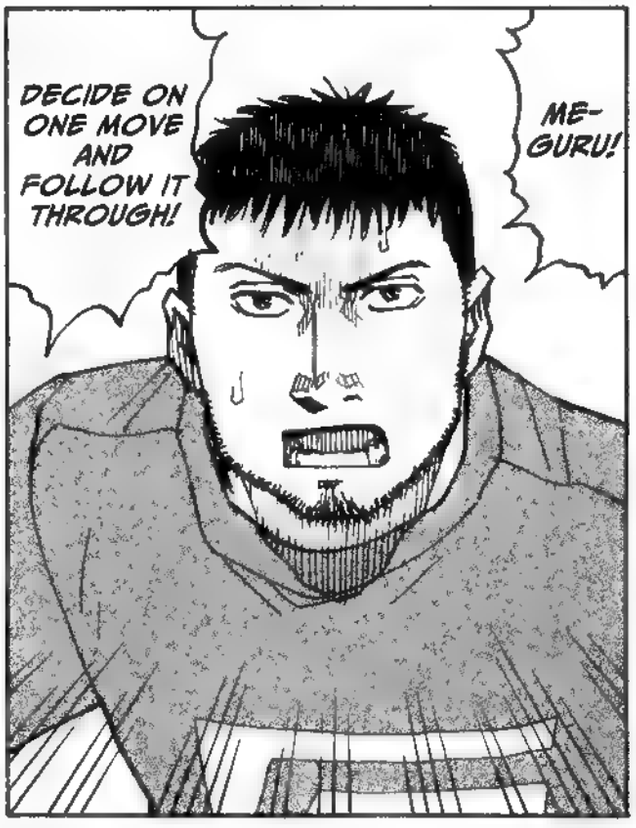
オールラウンダー廻（メグル）



Chapter 55 | Cut

24 SECONDS LEFT!

gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp


DECIDE ON ONE MOVE AND FOLLOW IT THROUGH!
ME-GURU!

IF I CAN JUST HOLD ON ANOTHER 24 SECONDS, I CAN WIN THIS.
I SHOULD HAVE A POINT LEAD.

FIGHT!

BUT...
...IS THAT REALLY WHAT I WANT TO DO?

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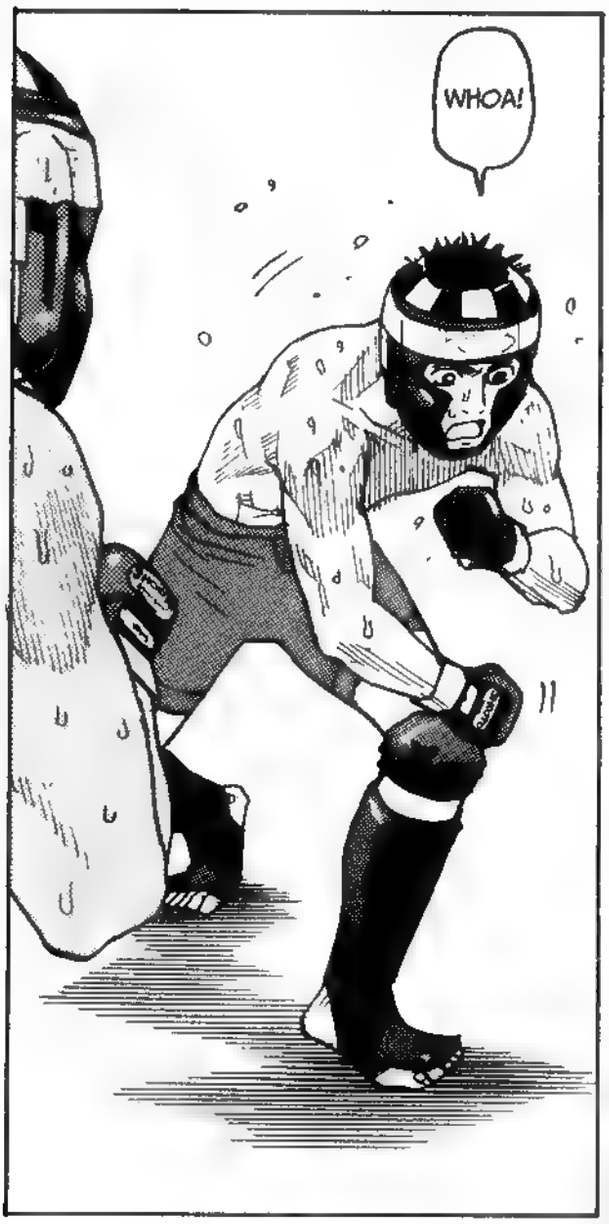
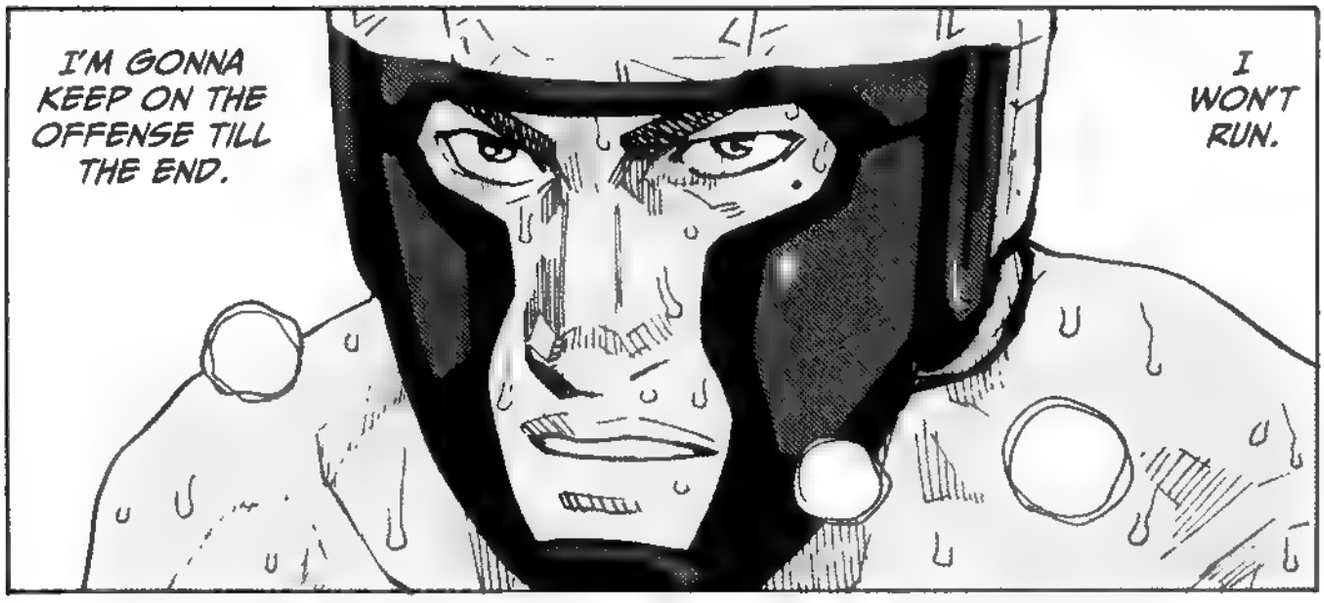
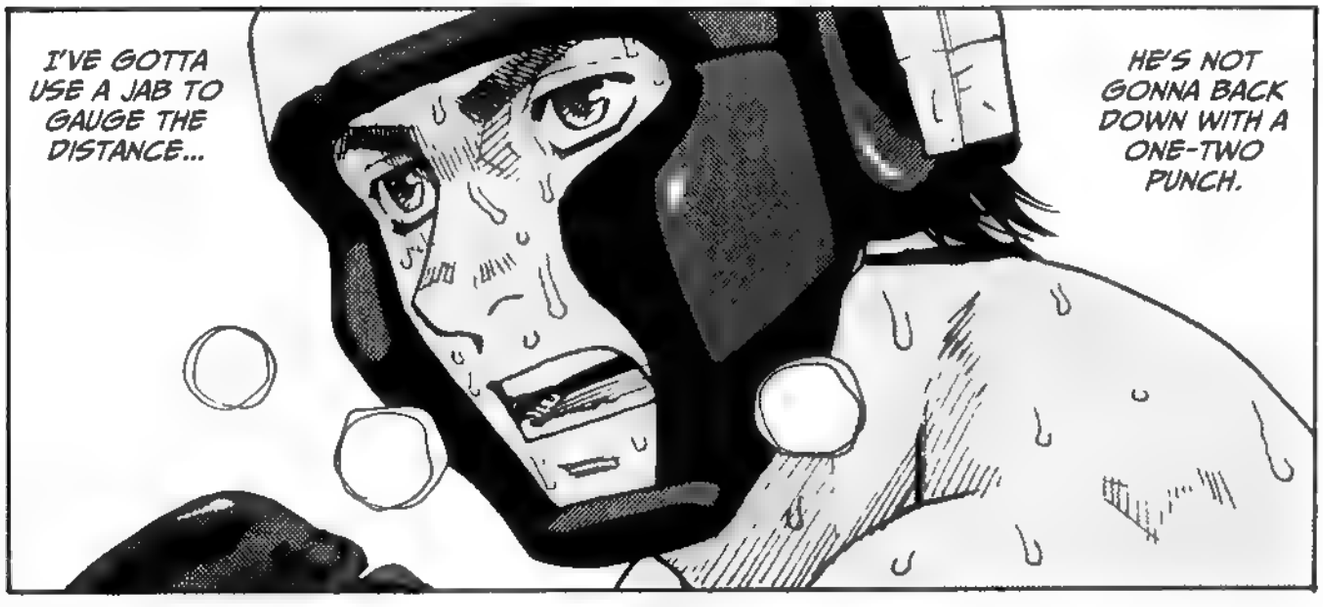

WHOA!

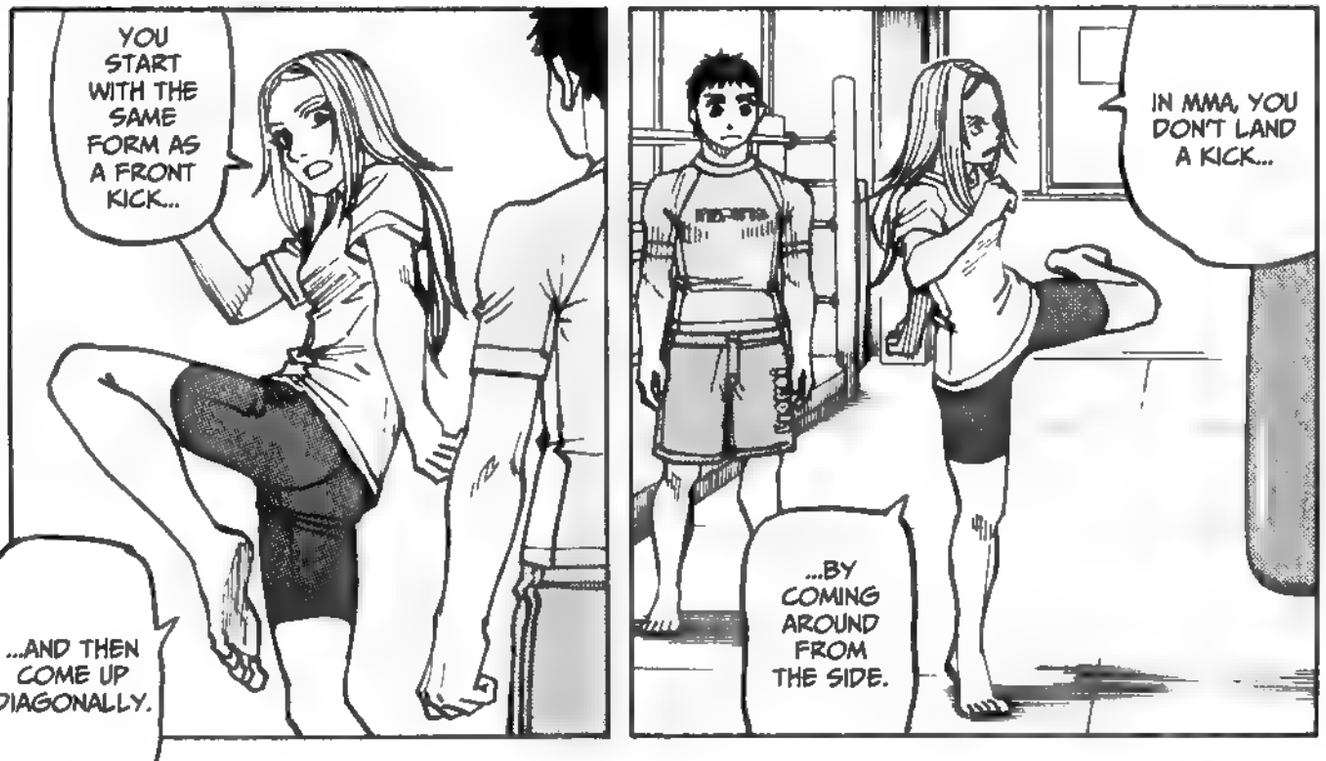
ヒ
ユッ

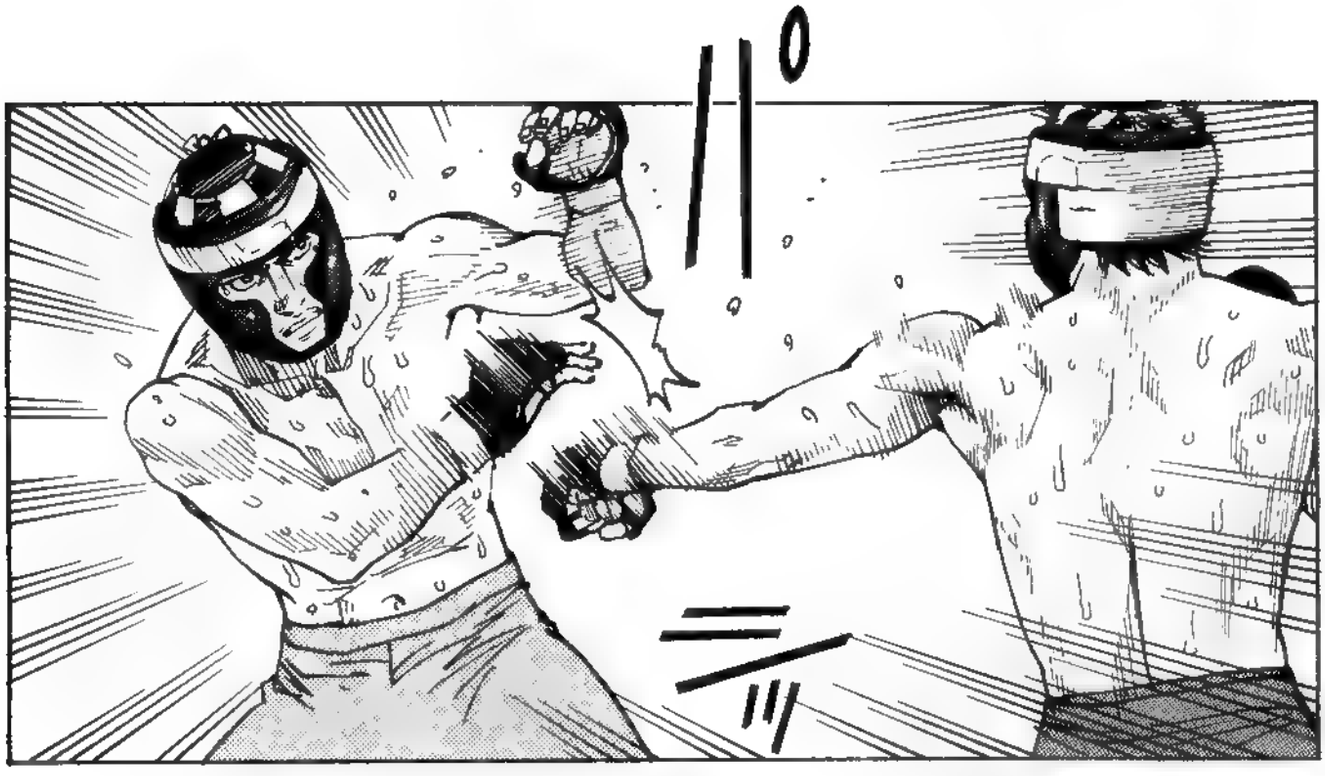
...AND YET...
HE CAN BARELY STAY UPRIGHT ...
IS HE GETTING ENOUGH OXYGEN?
HE'S BEING CARRIED ALONG WITH THE PUNCH...
...TO BEAT ME.
...HE'S STILL DETER-MINED...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE...

...WITH THE MITT...
AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE...
...A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
...I NEVER DID USE...
...IN THE MIRROR.
...AND CHECKING MY FORM...
DON'T THINK ABOUT POINTS.
THAT'S NOT HOW I ROLL.
MAKI'S GONNA BE SO PISSED AT ME.

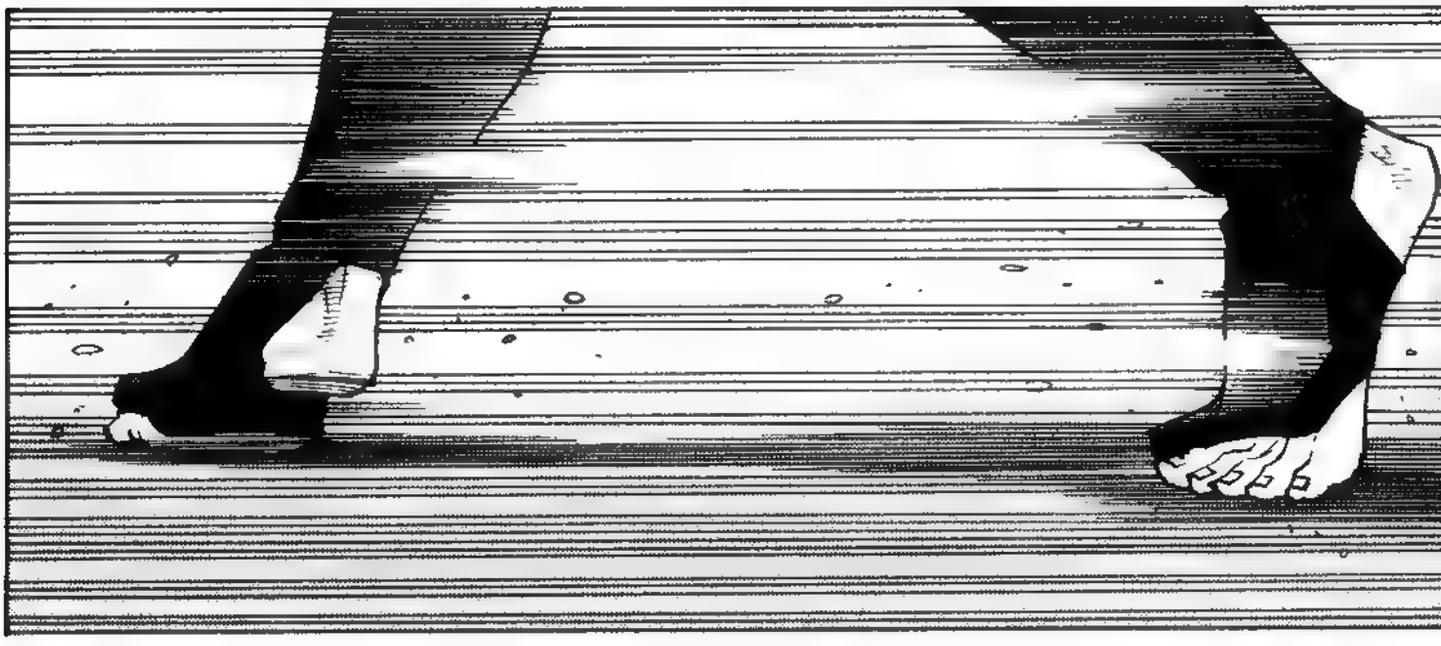

I'M GONNA KEEP ON THE OFFENSE TILL THE END.
I WON'T RUN.

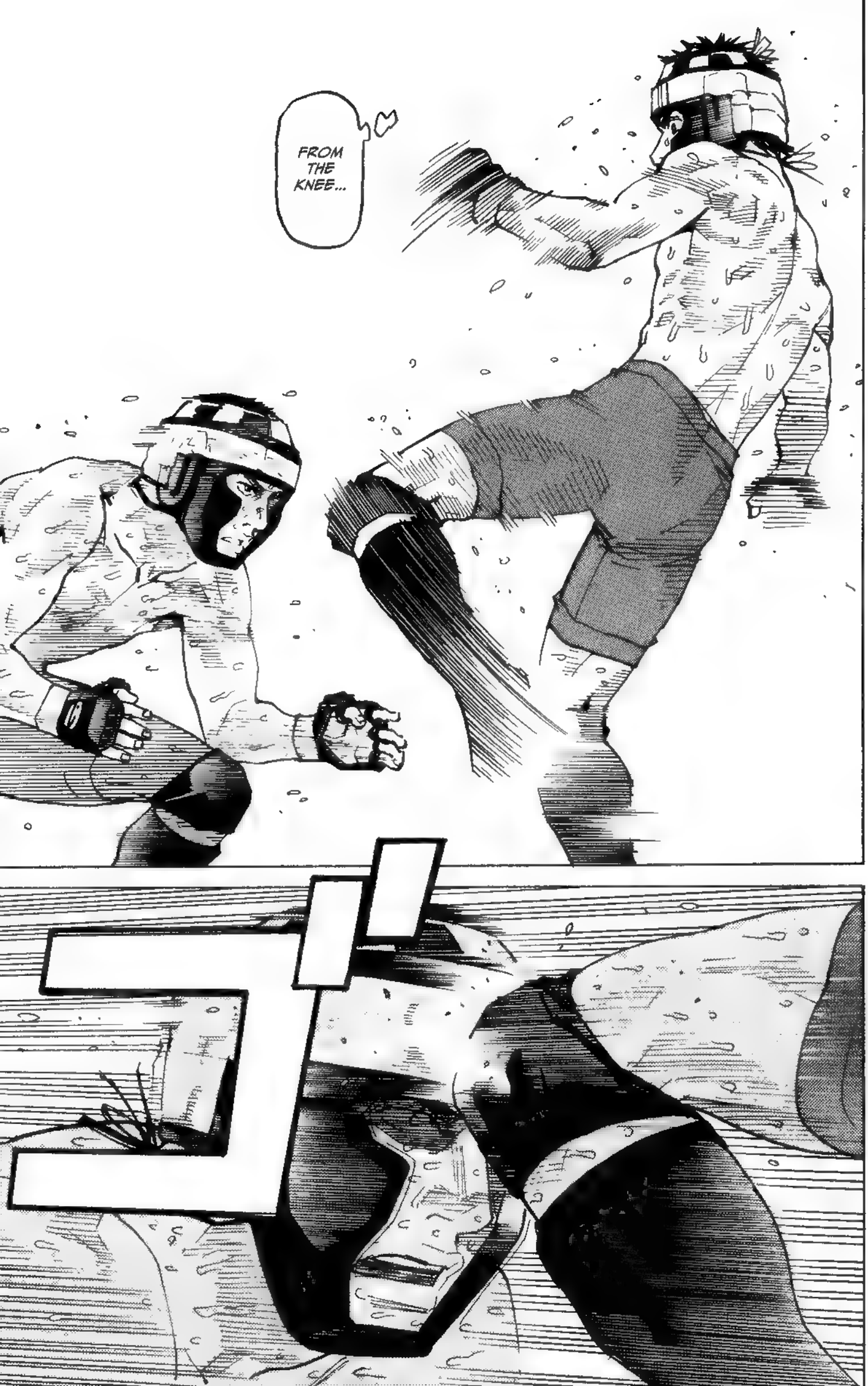

I'VE GOTTA USE A JAB TO GAUGE THE DISTANCE...
HE'S NOT GONNA BACK DOWN WITH A ONE-TWO PUNCH.


YOU START WITH THE SAME FORM AS A FRONT KICK...
...AND THEN COME UP DIAGONALLY.
IN MMA, YOU DON'T LAND A KICK...
...BY COMING AROUND FROM THE SIDE.

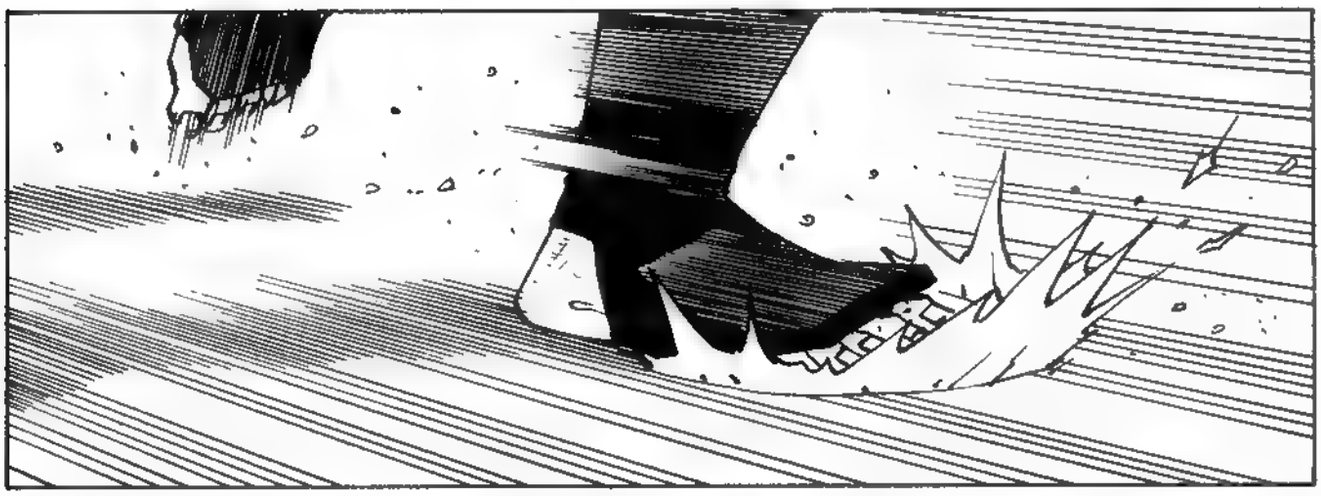


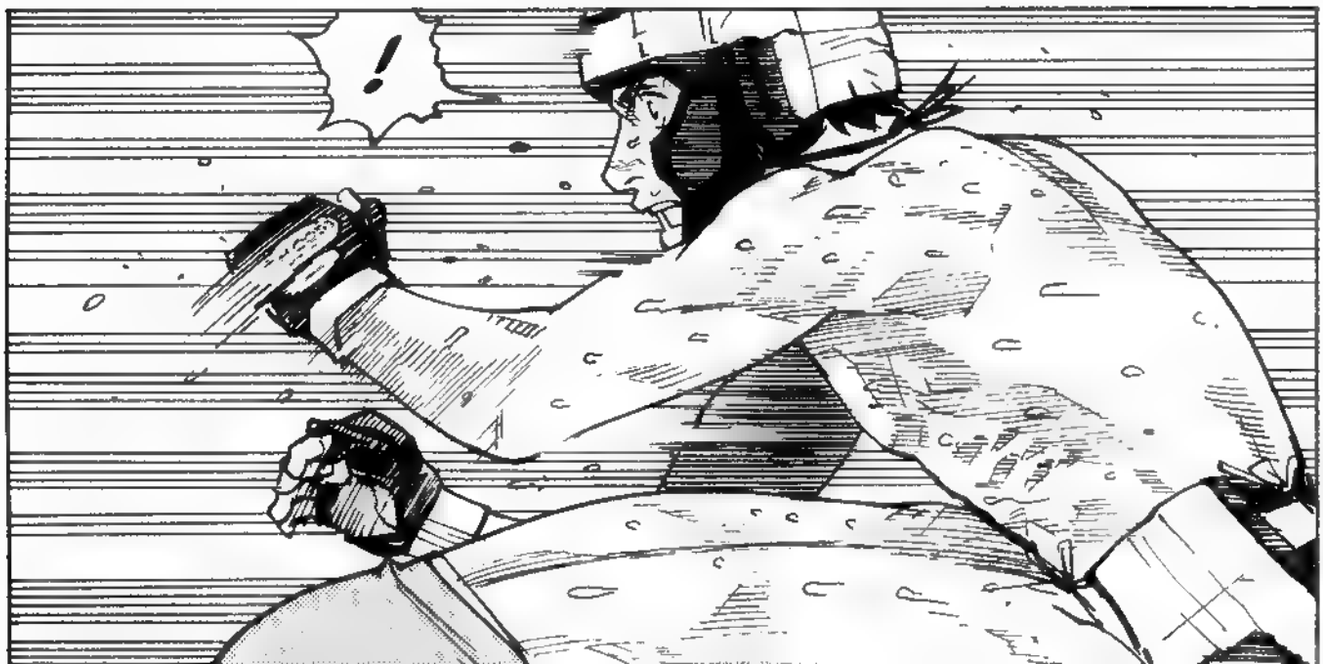
...
TAUGHT
ME.
JUST
LIKE
MARIA...

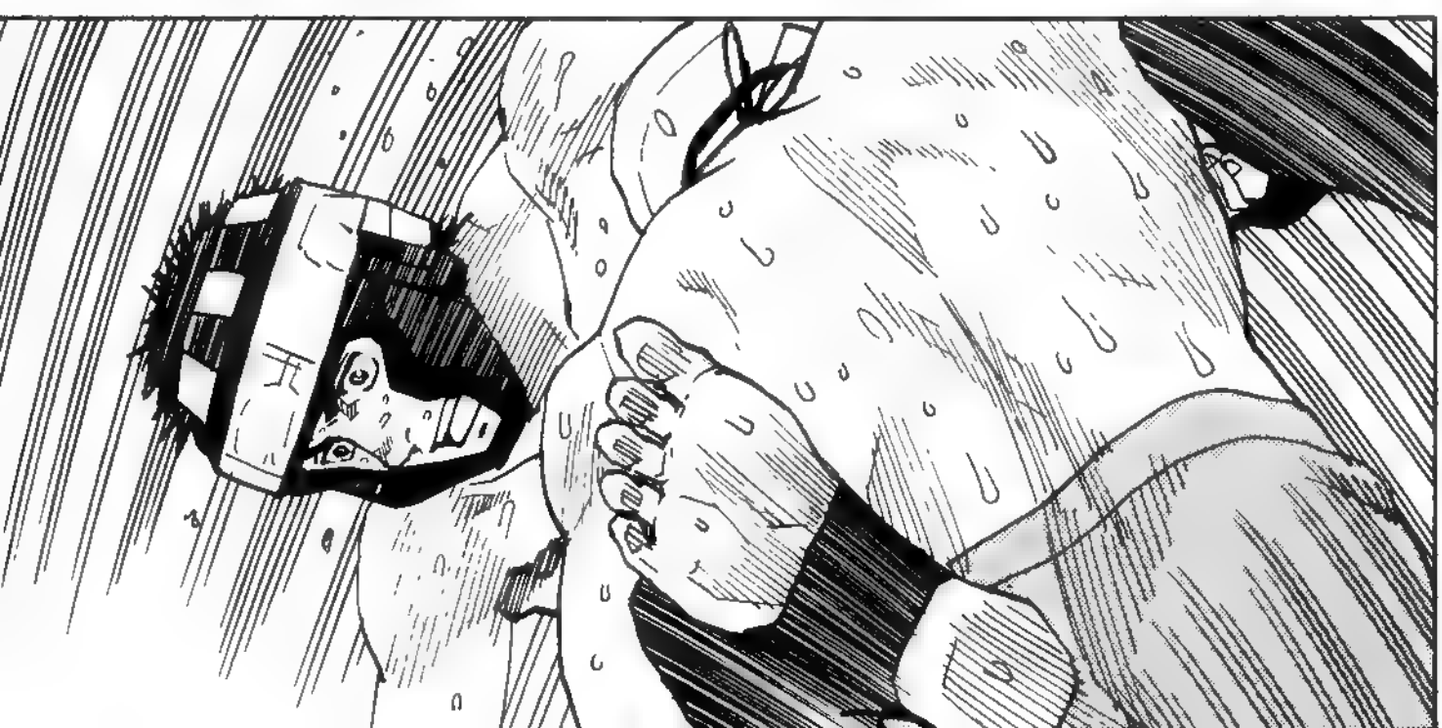


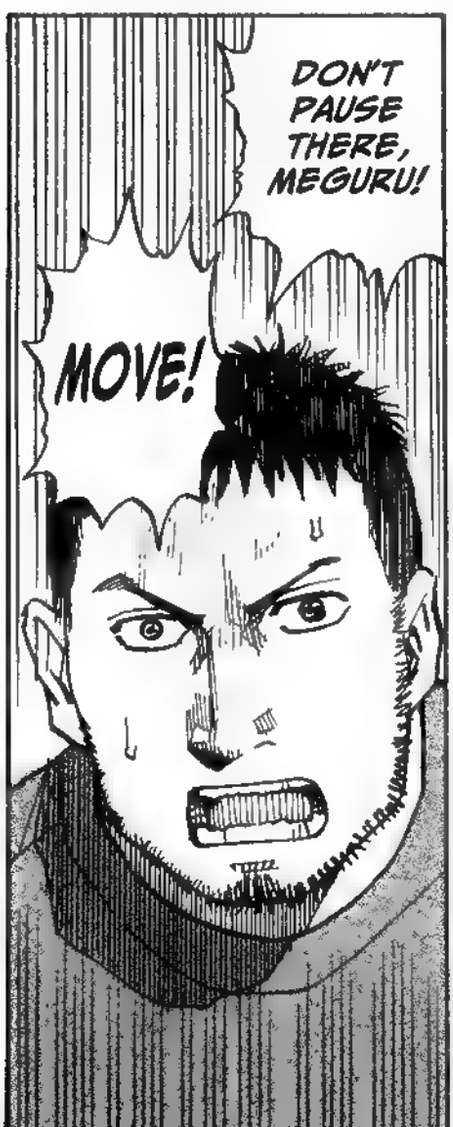

FROM THE KNEE...

GUOOHS








DON'T PAUSE THERE, MEGURU!
MOVE!

TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!

UNGH!

GIVE IT EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!
FINISH IT!

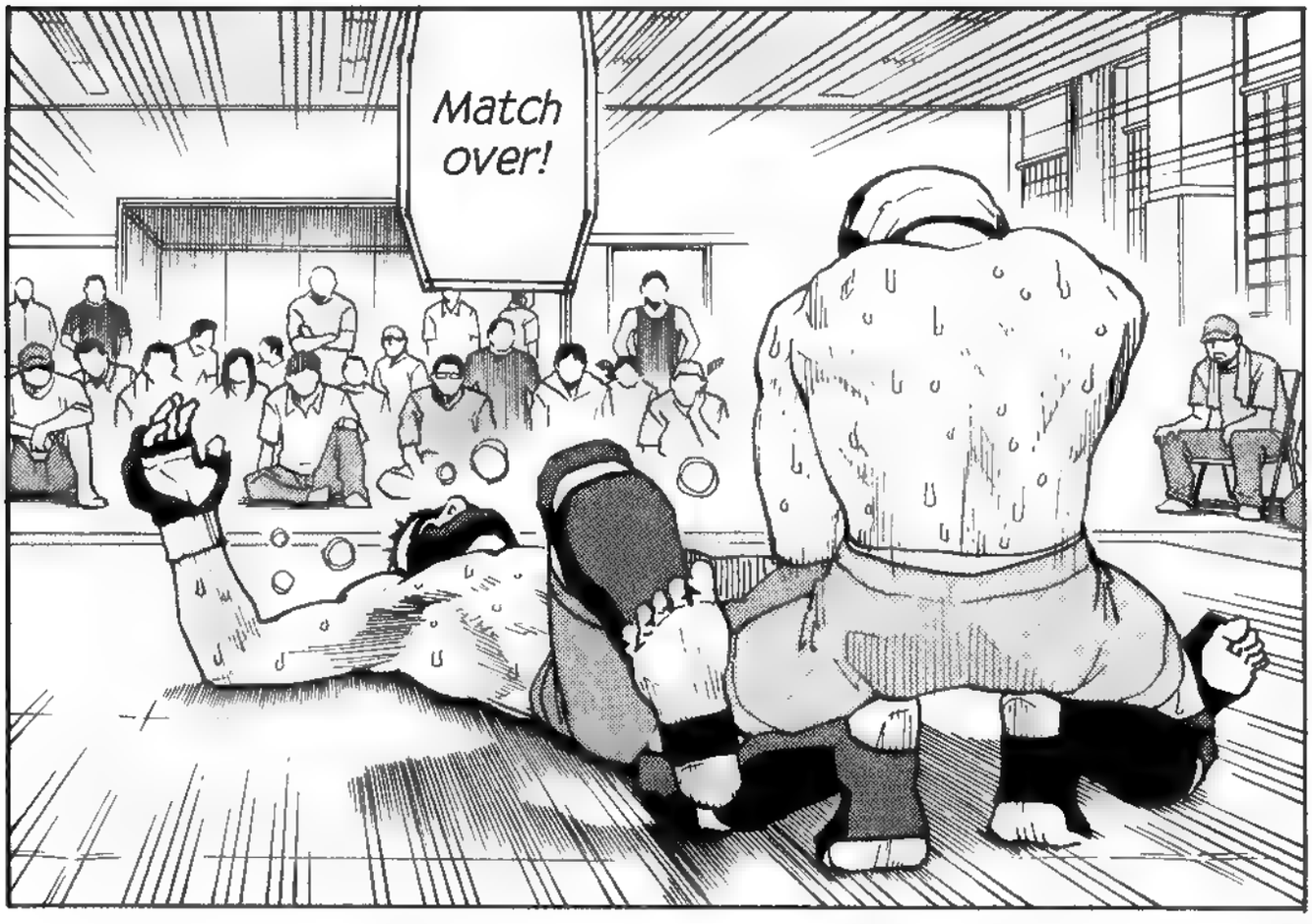
CATCH!
KEEP YOUR ARMS IN CLOSE AND SQUEEZE!
DON'T BRING YOUR CHIN UP! PULL!
YOU'VE GOT A CATCH, MEGURU!

SQUEEZE

KAGAYA! FIVE SECONDS LEFT!
DON'T PANIC! JUST HANG IN THERE!

カ
カ
!

STOP
!


Match
over!

SHOOTO
The judges will now make their decision!
!
...
Please remove your headgear!

...
HUH?
MEGURU... IS THAT YOUR BLOOD?
MUTTER...
OH ...
!

...FOR THE FINALS WITH THAT INJURY.
MUTTER
MUTTER
EVEN IF HE WINS, HE WON'T BE CLEARED...

THAT'S WHERE HE GOT KNEED...
...

THE IMPACT WENT RIGHT THROUGH IT...
BUT HE WAS WEARING HEADGEAR!

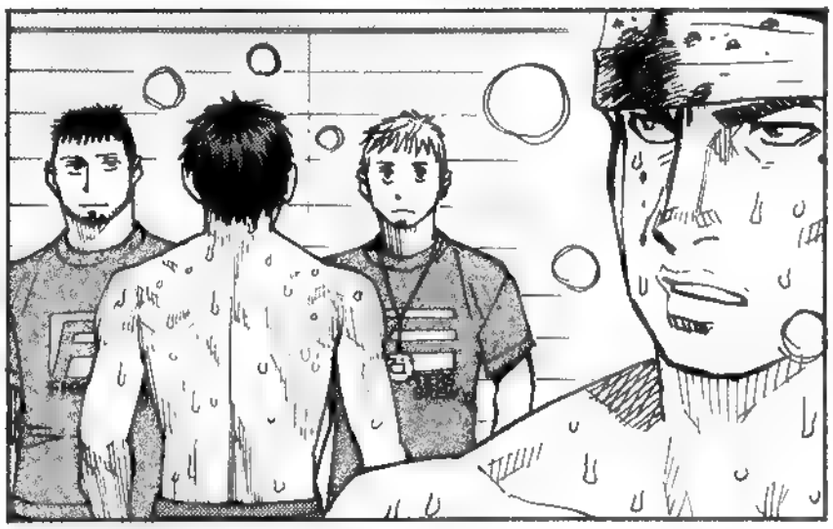
I will now announce the judges' scorecards!
7-18!
Grap-pling points.
And one point off for Kagaya's going out of bounds!
10-8!
Striking Judge A.
10-8!
Judge B.

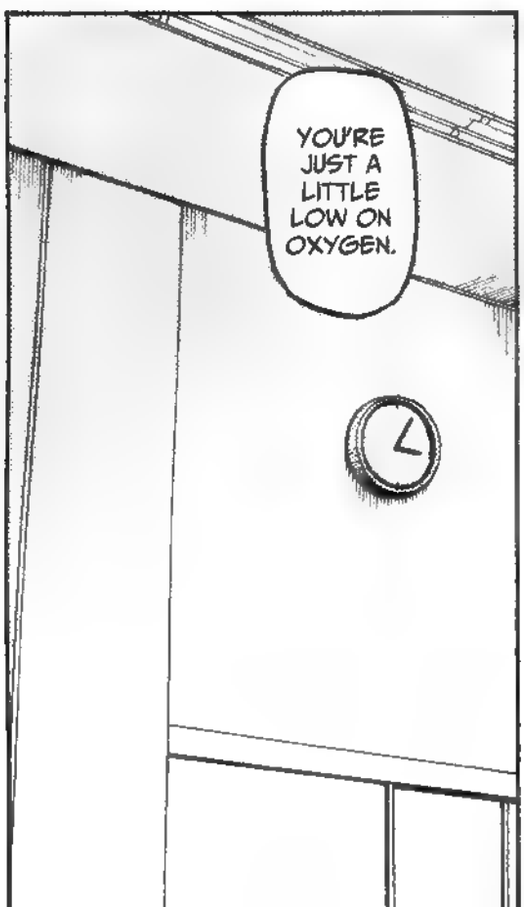
...27-33...
The final score is...
...blue!

Kagaya wins...
...by decision!

Chapter 56 | I Don't Need a Reason

THANKS
...




YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE LOW ON OXYGEN.

AIKAWA, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF PACKING UP.
ALL RIGHT, YUDAI, LET'S GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
...
YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.
And now...

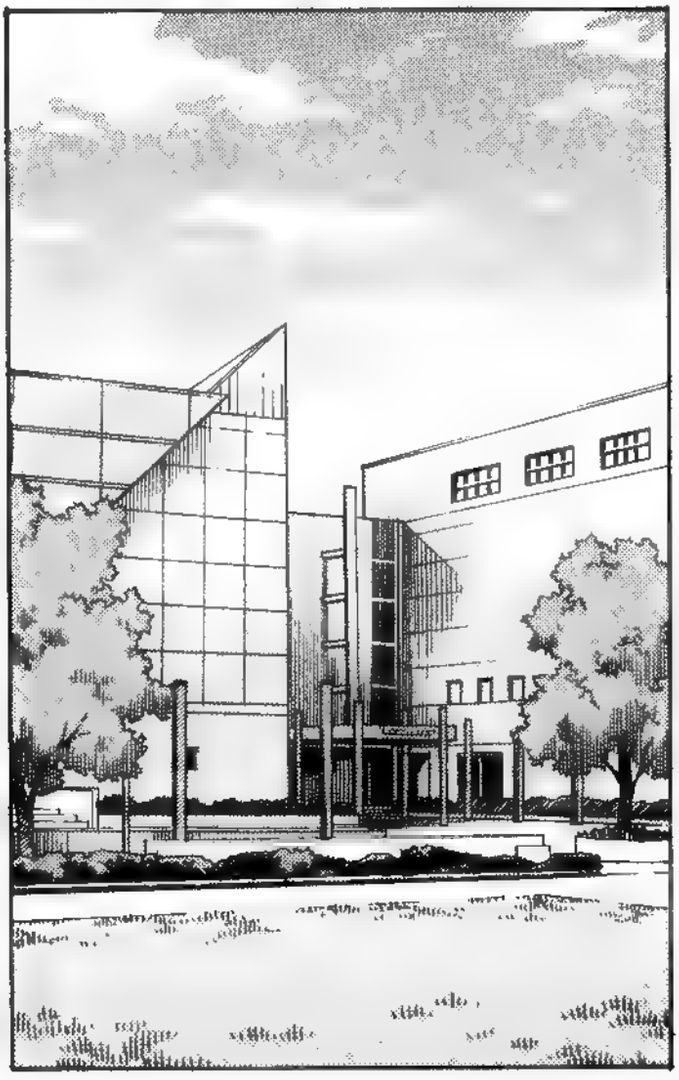
Due to his injuries, lightweight semi-finalist Kagaya...
...will be unable to fight, making the winner...
...the finals will begin!
...of the lightweight division...
...Takashi Yamabuki!
WHY DOESN'T MEGURU GET BUMPED UP TO THE FINALS INSTEAD?
THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS IN A HIGH-IMPACT SPORT LIKE MMA.

WAITING FOR A CAT SCAN?
...
!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
... YEAH.

...STRONG.
HE'S ...
OF COURSE HE IS.
I GOT 14 STITCHES.
OH YEAH?
I'M NOT GIVING UP ON GOING PRO.
I'M GONNA DO THE REGIONALS AND FIGHT MY WAY TO THE NATIONALS.

IF YOU KEEP IT UP...
...WE MIGHT FACE OFF SOMEDAY.
...

...
Tamada!
And the winner of the welter-weight division is...

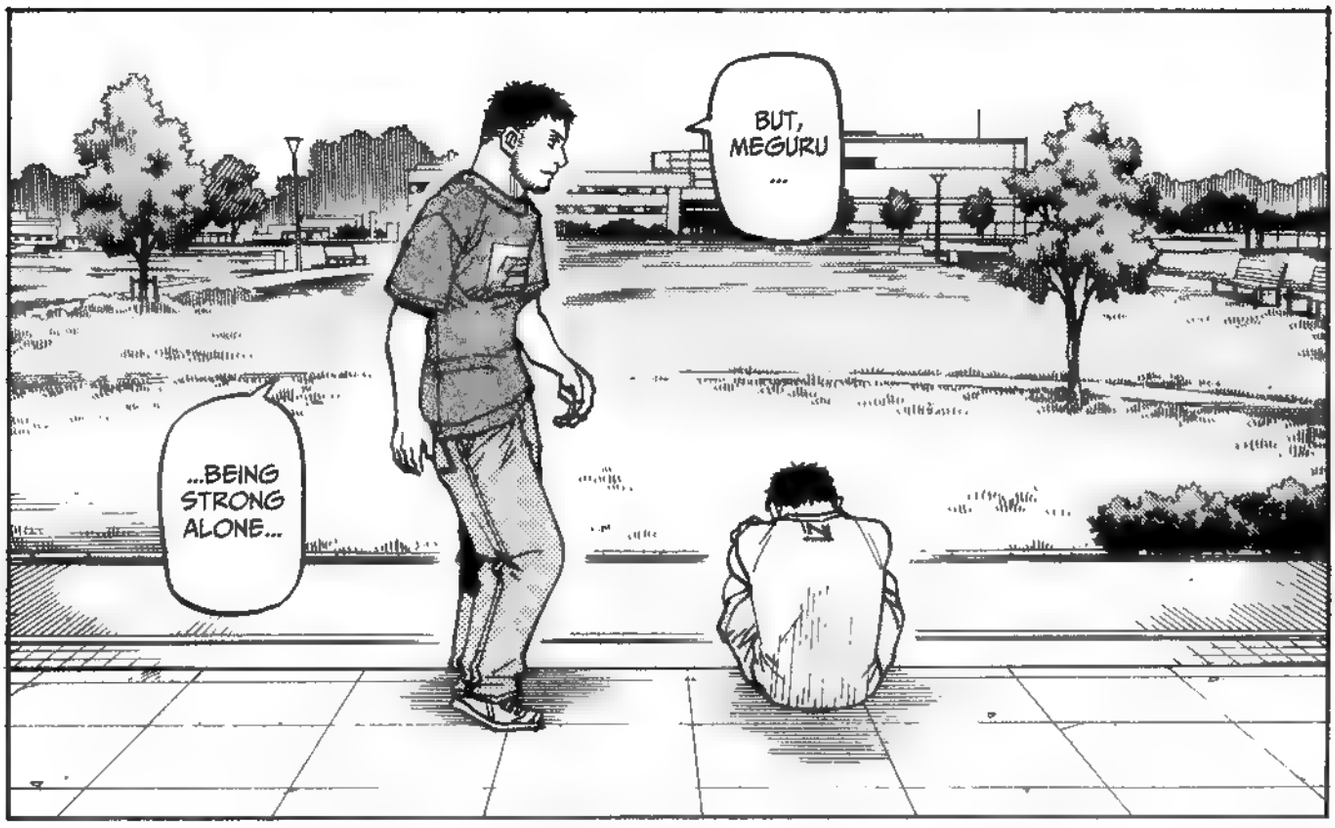


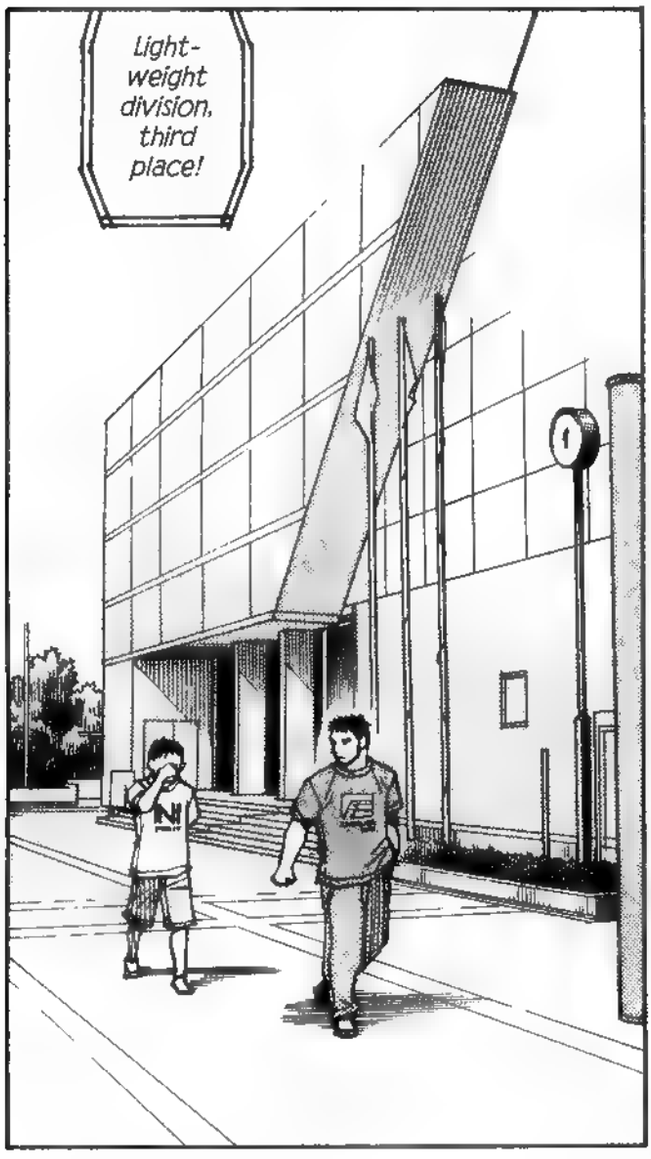
I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME BEFORE THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
...
!
THERE YOU ARE!

WHY AM I DOING MMA?
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
FURUYA, I...
IF I HAD TO PICK, I'D RATHER DO ART INSTEAD OF THIS.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED FIGHTING, AND I'M WEAK.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CLAIM ON "MANLI-NESS."
...WANT TO BE STRONG.
BUT I...

I'VE GOT A WEAK CHIN, NO STAMINA...
...BUT I JUST COULDN'T *MOVE.*
AFTER I KNEED KAGAYA...
...I COULD HEAR YOU AND YUDAI TELLING ME TO GET IN THERE...
OF COURSE I WAS GONNA LOSE...
AND COME ON, I GOT TAKEN DOWN *THREE TIMES* IN FOUR MINUTES...
...OR STRENGTH.
...

IF I PRACTICE MORE...
FURUYA ...
...GET STRONGER ?
... WILL I...
SURE.
...


BUT, MEGURU ...
...BEING STRONG ALONE...


Light-weight division, third place!

...IN MMA.
... DOESN'T REALLY MEAN ANYTHING ...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...
Meguru Taka-yanagi!

HM?
MAKI.
UM...

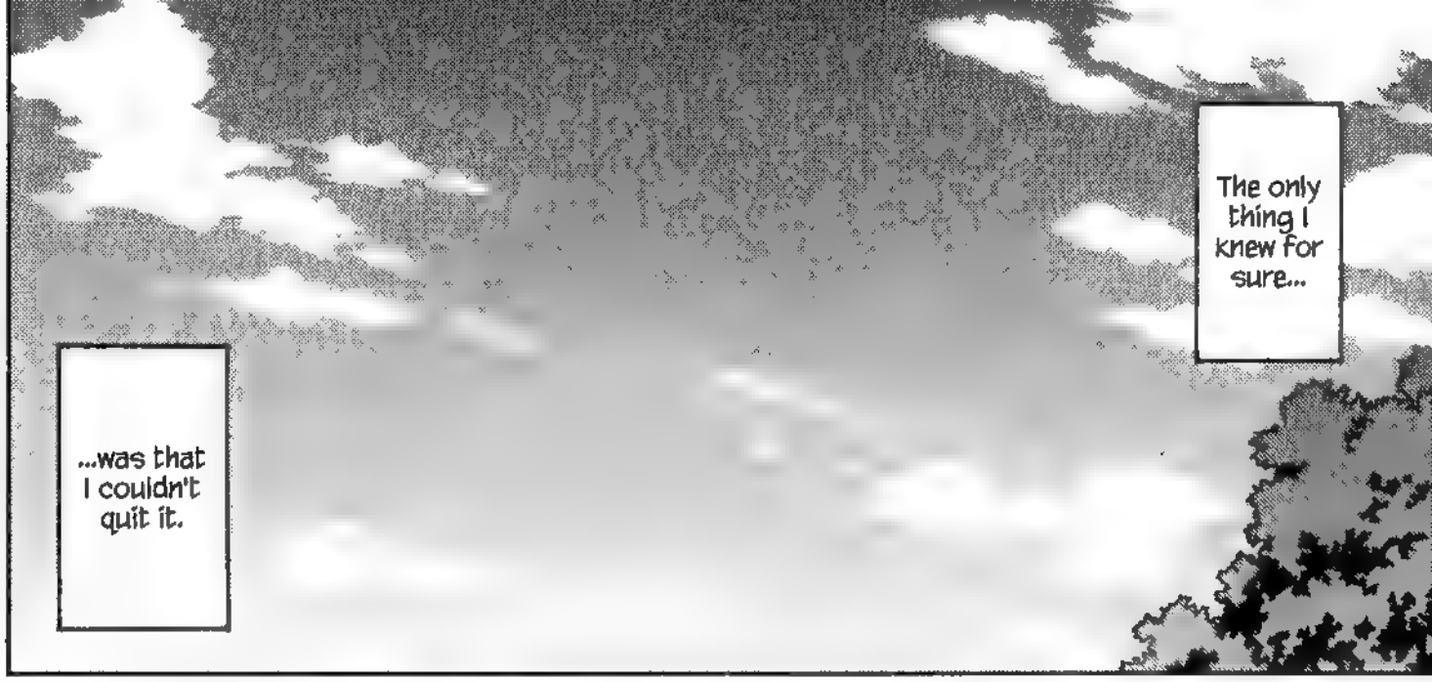
YOU AND YUDAI TIED FOR THIRD PLACE.
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF TODAY.

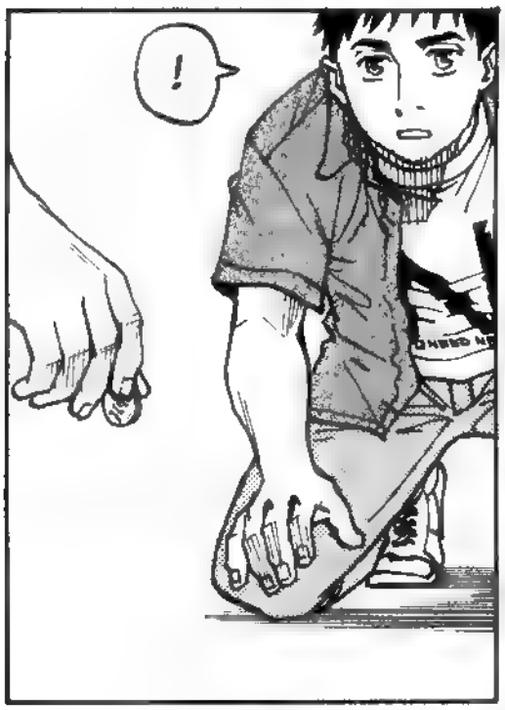
HUH?
UH...
...USE A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.

I NEVER DID...
SORRY.

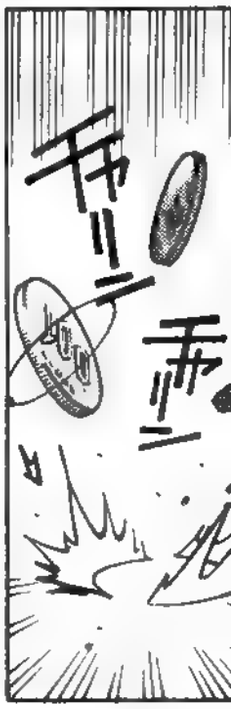
W-WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
JUST FORGET IT.
YOU'D BETTER WIN REGIONALS.
NO NEED NE
!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE NATION-ALS.
In the end, I still couldn't figure out...
...why I was doing MMA.

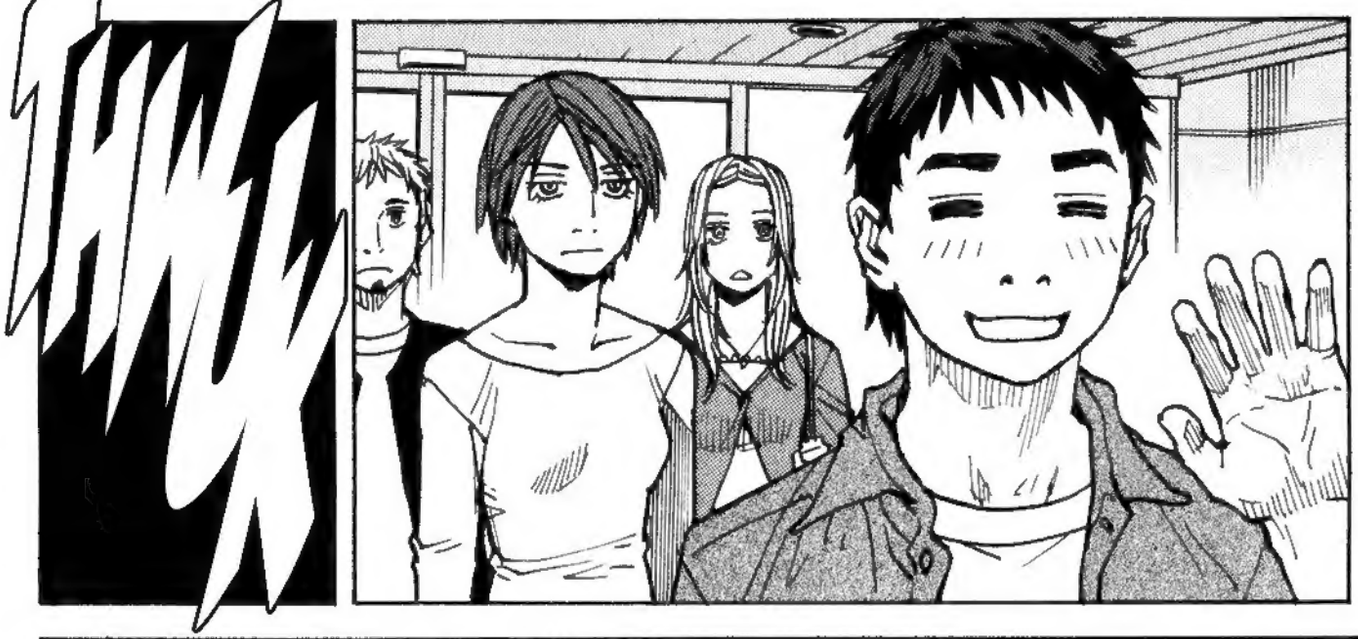

The only thing I knew for sure...
...was that I couldn't quit it.


!

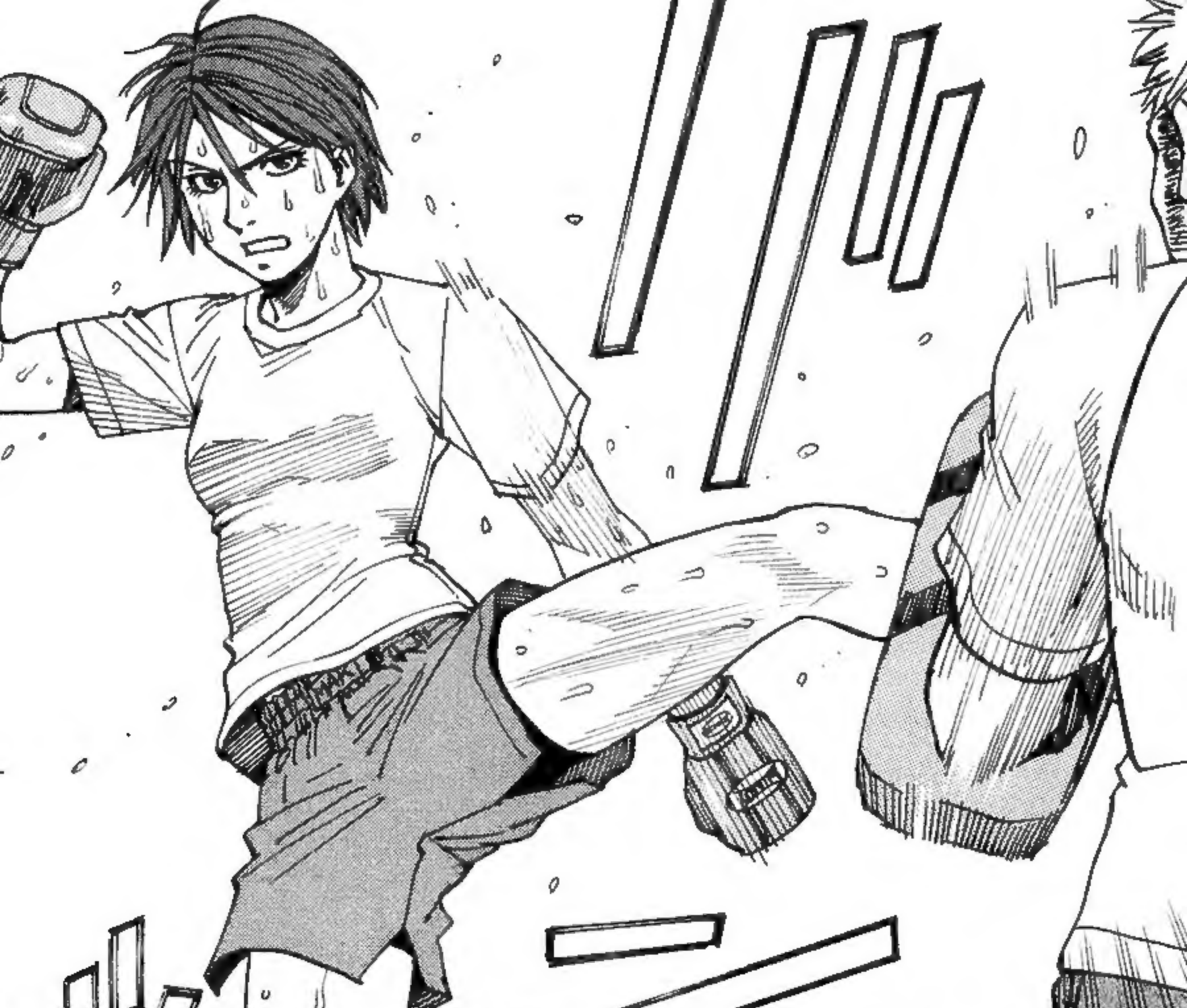
CRAP.
AHH...



YOUR MATCH WITH MAKI WAS AWESOME.
OH, YOU REMEMBERED?
WERE YOU AND KAGAYA IN THE SAME GYM?
YEAH.
HE GOT SO OBSESSED WITH GETTING STRONGER, HE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE...
HE STARTED SAYING THINGS HE DIDN'T MEAN...
BUT AFTER YOUR MATCH TODAY...
...HE GAVE YOU A HAND...
...TO HELP YOU UP, DIDN'T HE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LIKE THAT IN A LONG TIME...
MAYBE I MISJUDGED HIM...



To be continued in *All-Rounder Meguru* Vol. 7



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